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photo by Chris Machan

After escaping Soviet-occupied Afghanistan in 1987, Raheem Yaseer came to UNO's Afghan Studies Center.

## Yaseer represents past, future efforts of center

T.J. Accola

Part Three in The Gateway's three-part series on UNO's Center for Afghanistan Studies.

For Raheem Yaseer, the uncertainty of living in a country in which an oppressive regime restricts the amount of free thought and learning is not an unfamiliar concept.

Yaseer, assistant director of UNO's Center for Afghanistan Studies, is now witnessing the tail end of the Taliban government's occupation of his home country of Afghanistan, a situation not

unlike what he endured during the Soviet invasion that ended in 1989.

Yaseer would likely be witnessing the demise of the Taliban firsthand if it were not for a young Peace Corps volunteer named Tom Gouttierre.

More than three decades ago, Yaseer was working as an English instructor in a Afghan high school. It was there he met Gouttierre and subsequently decided to join the Peace Corps. For the next several years, Yaseer and Gouttierre established a professional

see Afghan, page 3

## Student Government discusses bus fees, president/regent position

Kristin Zagurski

The current student body president/regent debate took a backseat to proposed shuttle bus fees at Thursday's Student Government meeting.

Vice Chancellor of Business and Finance Gary Carrico spoke to the Senate about the proposed shuttle bus fees.

The fees, which if instated would most likely begin in the 2002-2003 school year, are going to help make up for the downfall caused by shuttle bus expenses, said Student Government Speaker Aaron Becker.

Becker said that since the opening of UNO's South Campus, shuttle bus fees have risen dramatically to about \$450,000 per year.

"Campus Security is now working in the red," Becker said of the finances surrounding the shuttle bus service.

"The remote parking is still free, but at some point, this will have to change," said Carrico. "The bottom line is, we don't believe parking pass fees should pay for all of the shuttle bus costs."



photo by Josh Wagner

Vice Chancellor Gary Carrico discusses shuttle bus fees at Thursday's Student Government meeting.

University officials have proposed the instatement of a university-wide fee of 50 cents per credit hour to help finance shuttle bus services. That means a student taking 12 credit hours would pay \$6 per semester in additional fees.

Becker said members of the Senate feel the proposed fee is "pretty fair," considering what a utility the shuttle bus system is on the UNO campus.

He said the Senate is considering options, such as the refunding of fees to students who don't use the shuttle service (a policy similar to that of the HIPER policy).

Some senators were outspoken on the topic.

"I pay \$45 for a parking pass and I never use the shuttle bus," said senior Jon Shradar. "Six dollars is a pitcher of beer."

Also at the meeting, a letter recognizing the legitimacy of the ascension from the position of vice president-elect to student body president/regent failed with what Becker called an "overwhelming majority."

While vice president-elect Shay Riggs' actual name was not mentioned in the piece of legislation, it did demonstrate the Senate's sentiment regarding her proposed ascension to the role of student body president/regent.

see SG Meeting, page 8

## Chancellor Belck on a Harley the ABC Breakfast Series continues

Rachel Wade

Imagine sitting down to a nice breakfast. A distinguished speaker is set to take the podium. As members of the crowd sip their coffee, a distant low rumble grows increasingly closer and in rides UNO's chancellor, Nancy Belck, on the back of a Harley.

No, those who saw this scene were not dreaming ... although it was at 7 a.m. They were in the audience of this year's second ABC Breakfast, which was held Dec. 5 at the Holiday Inn on 72nd and Grover Streets.

Oh yeah ... and the reason Belck was on the back of a motorcycle?

The former director of communications for the Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Ken Schmidt, was the lecturer for Wednesday's breakfast. His lecture was titled "The Rise and Fall of Harley-Davidson."

Schmidt began his work with Harley-Davidson in 1985 while working with Bozell Public Relations in Chicago. He was asked to help the then-struggling company restore its image.

He left Bozell Public Relations in 1990 to become

director of Harley-Davidson's corporate and financial communications.

In that position, Schmidt was gradually able to restore market leadership and profitability to Harley-Davidson. Today, the unique motorcycles outstrip supply worldwide.

During his time with Harley-Davidson, Schmidt played an active role in one of the most celebrated turnarounds in corporate history, helping to restore the company's image and create a demand for motorcycles.

To illustrate the impact of the American reputation and lasting quality of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, Schmidt asked the crowd to make the nose of an imported Honda motorcycle - a resulting buzz filled the room.

Then he asked everyone to imitate the sound of a Harley-Davidson. The room was once again filled with noise, only this time it was a low throaty rumble.

In that display, the crowd illustrated the main point of Schmidt's lecture: the reputation and quality that Harley-Davidson is notorious for.

see ABC, page 8



photo by Chris Machan

Ken Schmidt speaks to the crowd at the ABC Breakfast series. In front is the Harley Davidson he and Chancellor Belck rode in on.

### Inside the Gateway



photo by Chris Machan

Alaska-Fairbanks' Ryan Lang checks UNO's Andrew Wong into the boards Friday night. More hockey, page 16.

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# Life without Santa Claus

## A look into lesser known holidays

Aisha DaCosta

We all realize the holiday season is upon us, but have you ever stopped to think there is more to December than just Christmas trees and Santa Claus? It is rather insensitive to arbitrarily wish everyone you encounter "Merry Christmas." To play it safe, wish people "Happy Holidays" if you are not going to take the time to account for their individual religious beliefs or cultural practices.

As racially diverse as our nation is, so too are we diverse in our religious and spiritual observances. In order to appear more sophisticated this holiday season, here is information about two religions you were not taught about in Sunday school.

In Jewish households across the nation, nights decorating the Christmas tree or hanging mistletoe are nonexistent. Rather, December nights are spent

preparing for Hanukkah, the Jewish Feast of Dedication. Hanukkah is not a celebration of any major religious event, like Christmas, which celebrates the birth of the messiah, or Ramadan, which celebrates the revelation of the Quran, the Muslim holy text. Instead, Hanukkah commemorates the re-dedication of the Temple of Jerusalem by Judas Maccabee in 165 B.C. Re-dedication was necessary because Antiochus IV Epiphanes, king of Syria and overlord of Palestine, defiled the temple. The practices observed on Hanukkah are similar to those of the African-American holiday of Kwanzaa.

The principal feature of present-day Hanukkah celebrations is the lighting of candles, one the first night, two the second and so on until eight candles have been lit in a special candelabrum called a

see **Holidays**, page 13

# Finding my religion

Amanda Clark

Imagine being raised Jewish. You grow up (if a boy) Brissed and Bar Mitzvahd. You couldn't imagine a Saturday without seeing your rabbi at temple. His words have helped shape the belief system you've held your entire life. But ... sometimes you feel doubt or ask questions that may make you feel less confident in your faith.

You aren't losing your religion. Through questions come answers, which can bring stronger faith and clarity through new ideas or beliefs.

In life today, we are able to utilize different sources in our quests for knowledge and answers. Among the most advanced tools at our disposal is the computer.

There is a Web site called selectsmart.com. Its goal is to "provide a fun and informative activity to explore world religions and belief systems."

The Web site asks 15 multiple choice questions, ranging from beliefs about deities to origin theories. The answers are based off 26 different belief systems and religions. Only, there are not 26 different answers, but six,

generalized so more than one system or religion is grouped into an answer.

In the end, 26 religions are listed with a percentage next to them, indicating how closely the beliefs chosen in the answers reflect the beliefs of the religion. Now, you can see how they stack up.

An anonymous UNO senior visits the religion selector. Like most people, he feels the cloth of his faith is more porous than he would like. Raised Catholic, he feels that some of the beliefs he has were acquired through finding out more about other religions. He says he is definitely open to learning as much as he can about all religions to further his quest for faith.

The results of the selector indicate the following: his beliefs matched 100 percent with Liberal Quakers and Unitarian Universalists and only 30 percent with Catholics.

When you are through, you are able to double-click on any of the religions to view general facts and information about the religion's beliefs. Books are also recommended to read up

# Islam – The truth revealed

Aisha DaCosta

To some, it is inconceivable to think there is an American alive who knows absolutely nothing about Islam. These people, though, are few and far between; most of us acknowledge a passing familiarity with Islamic knowledge. For most Americans, their understanding of Islam is rather vague and often colored by false stereotypes and cultural misconceptions.

The first thing one should know and clearly understand about Islam is what the word "Islam" means. Islam is an Arabic word that is derived from two root words "Salm," meaning peace and "Silm," meaning submission. Islam means the submission or surrender of one's will to the only true God, "Allah," the Arabic name for God, which is used by Arab Muslims and Christians alike.

The Holy Quran is believed by Muslims to be the final divine manifestation of God, which was first revealed through the Angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad

during the month of Ramadan. The entire revelation of the Quran took 23 years. It was recited to Muhammad, then dictated to his companions and written down by scribes, who cross-checked it during his lifetime. Muslims believe every word of its 114 chapters, or Surahs, has remained unchanged over the centuries, so the Quran is in every detail the unique and miraculous text revealed to Muhammad over 14 centuries ago.

To become a Muslim, one needs only to profess the declaration of faith, Shahada. This consists of two simple statements: "Laa ilaaha ill Allah" (There is no deity worthy of worship but Allah) and "Muhammad ur rasul ullah" (Muhammad is the messenger of Allah).

Upholding this status, however, is not achieved by vocal profession alone. To become a complete Muslim, one must observe all "Five Pillars" of Islam, which serve as the framework of the Muslim life: faith, prayer (Salaat), charity (Zakat), self-

see **Islam**, page 13

# What do those traditions really mean?

Candace Horton

It is that time of year again. No, not finals week. It's Christmas! We know this because people are putting up evergreen trees (real or artificial) and placing ornaments on them. Garlands are being strewn from one end of the house to the other. Mom is baking up a storm in the kitchen; perhaps Dad is on the roof, swearing while putting up the little blinky lights.

Any way that you look at it, it's Christmas.

The traditions of Christmas go back thousands of years. Originally, this time of year had a different title, but a similar meaning.

"This time of year, we celebrate Yule," says Jody Westbrook, a pagan practitioner. "This is the celebration that heralds the return of the sun-god to earth."

In ancient cultures where people worshipped a goddess, there was a cycle of birth, death and rebirth. The sun-god was born on the darkest night of the year.

The truth about Yule is

that the date is not fixed like the Christian holiday. Charles Odorizzi, proprietor of the Next Millennium Bookstore, says "the day of celebration is usually on the winter solstice around Dec. 21 or 22."

People would also celebrate during the five days prior to and six days after, giving modern people the twelve days of Christmas.

In celebrating the return of the sun-god, many people have celebrations that begin at night.

"Many have rituals that give thanks for the coming of the light," Odorizzi says. "Since Yule happens on the longest night of the year, the people show their appreciation at dawn, when the light returns."

Dorothy Morrison, author of *Yule: A Celebration of Light and Warmth*, writes that Christmas was not Christmas until the Christians came along. Many early converts could not understand why they should give up their old gods for the new religion.

# Spot news

Kristin Zagurski

Student art projects on display in Weber gallery

The artistic offerings of three undergraduate students are currently on display at UNO in conjunction with the Fall BFA Thesis Exhibit. The free gallery show runs through Dec. 21 in the Weber Fine Arts Building Gallery.

Artists featured in the current show include:

- Jeremy Lee, installation;
- James Selders, installation;
- Jacqueline Kluver, painting.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Nancy Kelly at 554-2796.

Next "Talking History" program to feature David Farber

"Talking History" will conclude its series on "Great American Generations" Monday, Dec. 10, with a discussion on baby boomers.

Fred Nielsen of UNO's history department will interview historian David Farber.

Farber, a history professor at the University of Mexico, has written many books, including *The Age of Great Dreams: America in the 1960s\**, *Chicago '68* and *The Sixties: From Memory to History\** and *The*

Columbia Guide to America in the 1960s\*.

The program will air at 10 a.m. on KIOS-FM (91.5). It can also be accessed online at <http://www.oah.org> by clicking on the "Talking History" link.

For more information, call 554-2593.

Budget Reductions for 2001-02

Following are UNO's budget reductions for the current year, which NU System President L. Dennis Smith reported to the Board of Regents this past weekend:

- Instructional Budget — \$250,000
- Summer Session reduction in number of courses resulting in larger classes — \$60,000
- Reduced funding for the acquisition of scientific equipment and other instructional equipment — \$140,000
- Reduced funding for faculty travel and faculty recruitment — \$50,000
- Delay in filling positions — \$230,889
- Temporary reduction of approximately 10 full-time staff members — \$230,889
- Facilities — \$70,000
- Reduction of building repair and maintenance budget, delaying minor renovation projects — \$70,000
- Total — \$550,889

See you next semester!

the **gateway**

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## Around the area

### News from area universities

Kristin Zagurski

#### Doane College (Crete)

Rall Gallery on the Doane College campus is featuring the work of Lincoln artist Barbara Trout through Dec. 21. Rall Gallery is located in Perkins Library in the lower level of the Communication Center.

The exhibition, titled "Cords and Cloth: Objects of the Spirit," is free and open to the public.

Trout is a professor in the department of textiles and design at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Rall Gallery hours are: 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and 2 - 11 p.m. Sunday.

Hours are 8 a.m. to noon Friday, Dec. 21.

#### University of Nebraska-Kearney

UNK's Planetarium will present "The Christmas Star" at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 7 and December 14 in the planetarium, which is located in the

basement of the Bruner Hall of Science.

The show takes a look at what could have been the Christmas star. Was it a comet, a meteor or an exploding star?

The show is appropriate for all ages and donations of canned goods are suggested and will be donated to the Jubilee Center.

#### Concordia University (Seward)

The Student Worship Committee at Concordia University is planning a "Journey to the Manger" Christmas program Dec. 13. The program will start at Weller Hall Auditorium on the CUNE campus. There will be three sessions: 6:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The program will include reenactments of various Christmas stories. Those who attend will have an opportunity to play roles from the various Bible passages. Everyone is invited to attend.

Compiled via official press releases and university Web sites. ©

## Health news:

### Things you should know

#### • Winter Fun

Last year, a number of Omahans suffered severe head and back injuries resulting from sledding accidents on Memorial Park hill. One young teen was crippled for life after running into a tree. That injury prompted the city to put up barricades around the trees on the hill and ask that parents watch their sledding children with a keener eye. But a new study conducted by Donald Voaklander of the University of Melbourne, says it is the adults who are in the most danger.

Two interesting facts surfaced from his study of sledding injuries in local emergency rooms: 1) the highest percentage of victims were adults thrown from their sleds and 2) older patients suffered more serious injuries.

"Adults tend to weigh more and generate more force when thrown from a sled," Voaklander says. "Adults may also be more likely to take risks or sled while under the influence of drugs or alcohol."

On average, injured sledders missed five days of work or school recovering from strains, sprains and broken bones.

#### • Christmas Food and Why We Eat So Much

Cookies, cakes, candies, pies, mashed potatoes with tons of real butter ... calories galore and fat, fat, fat!

Richard Mattes, an expert on food and nutrition at Purdue University, says it is the way fatty foods taste, not the smell, that lures us to eat so much. He conducted a study in which volunteers wore nose plugs so they couldn't smell the food they were given. Despite the olfactory block, blood fat levels rose instantly upon tasting. When the nose plugs were removed and the volunteers were allowed to smell but not taste the food, there was no rise in blood fat levels.

Mattes' experiments with rats and mice created similar results.

"This tells us that taste is the stimulus that causes the rise in blood fat levels," Mattes says. "The taste, and not the

smell, is what the body is responding to." Probably why fat-free foods suck.

#### • Winter and Asthma

Researchers from the National Heart and Lung Institute have concluded that breathing cold air is the number one trigger for severe asthma attacks among people who suffer from this chronic condition.

More than 70 percent of asthmatic patients studied at the Birmingham Heartlands Hospital were admitted to the emergency room in acute distress after breathing cold, winter air.

Exercise, laughing and taking aspirin were also high on the list of asthma triggers. Ten percent of the women surveyed stated their asthma attacks came on as they began their menstrual cycle.

"This is useful research which demonstrates how important it is for asthmatics, whether their condition is severe or mild, to plan for the effects of certain situations," John Harvey says.

Information for this article was taken from the health site at [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com). ©



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# WHAT'S NEXT?

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## Letters To The Editor



**editor@gateway.unomaha.edu**

## All I want for Christmas is...

Kristin Zagurski

So you're a typical college male: clueless as to what to buy your female significant other for Christmas. Perhaps a visit [www.sephora.com](http://www.sephora.com) could give you a push in the right direction.

Sephora is a girly girl's dream. Makeup, fragrances, skincare products ... everything she needs to keep looking and smelling sweet.

If makeup is not your girl's bag (or in it), why not try stroking her intellect (no, that's not what you're thinking) with a book. A few favorites of mine include *\*Cinematherapy: The Girl's Guide to Movies for Every Mood\** and the sequel to *\*Bridget Jones' Diary\**, *\*Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason\**.

If you guys think you're the only ones who like electronics, you're in for a big surprise. Any girl I know would appreciate a handheld digital camera, CD burner or cell phone just as much as the next guy.

And don't forget your multimedia options. With the many new CDs (No Doubt) and DVDs (*\*Almost Famous\**; *Director's Cut*) being released just before Christmas, there are plenty of gift options.

I almost forgot to mention the old standard: jewelry. Guys, if you're going to buy jewelry, be creative. Don't just buy the ring that's advertised because it's the store's cheapest at \$99. Buy something with personality. A unique setting or use of a birthstone (that is, if you can remember her birthday) can make a ring or necklace that much more special.

What about clothing? I know what you're thinking, and no, getting her something from Victoria's Secret is not the big plan you're looking for. Get her something she wants, like that big cozy sweater from Express. It may not be eye-appealing (a.k.a. flesh-bearing), but she will like it, and that's what matters. ☺

## UNO to host authentic Kwanzaa Celebration

Natasha Partridge

Sponsored by the Cultural Awareness Programs Committee, Cultural Awareness Programs and Student Organizations and Leadership Programs, UNO's Kwanzaa Celebration will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, in the Milo Bail Student Center Nebraska Room.

This fifth annual celebration aims to inform and entertain while preserving the richness of the holiday.

Tickets for the event are on sale through Tuesday, Dec. 11, and are \$3 for students and \$5 for members of the public.

UNO's celebration will hold true to the concept of Kwanzaa: to bring awareness of the past in order to understand the present and deal with the future.

Kwanzaa is an African American cultural holiday conceived and developed by Dr. Maulana Karenga, first celebrated on Dec. 26, 1966.

The holiday is rooted in the first harvest celebrations practiced in various African cultures. The observance uses traditional Swahili language and principles for bettering the community.

Kwanzaa is based on seven principles, called the Nguzo Saba; one principle is highlighted each day of the week long celebration.

UNO's observance will be a comprehensive celebration,

combining all seven principles into one evening.

The organizing committee has extended open arms by inviting high schools, elementary schools, churches, social service organizations and community members to share in the event.

The decor will be traditional. Tables will be set up to exhibit the symbols of the celebration.

UNO's Gospel Choir sing to set the mood for the evening. Rev. Larry Menyweather-Woods will be the keynote speaker.

Menyweather-Woods is the pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist church and an icon in the Omaha community. His message will undoubtedly reinforce the focal point of gathering for the holiday: connectedness and unity. A poetry reading is scheduled to inspire the essence of Kwanzaa.

Dinner, known as the karamu in Swahili, will allow for conversation and discussion, followed by a candle lighting ceremony.

The lighting of candles is a major ritual in the celebration of Kwanzaa. The candles, called mishumaa, are the colors of the Black Liberation Flag: there are three red, three green and one black candle.

Herschel Jackson, of Student Organizations and Leadership Development, said he hopes the celebration is an informative

**see Kwanzaa, page 15**

## The ups and downs of being a mall Santa

Natasha Partridge

It may be very cold and snowy at the North Pole, but recent evidence suggests that Santa is actually snug and warm inside the mall, creating special surprises for boys and girls.

Can you remember the first time you sat on Santa's lap at the mall or a department store and shared your Christmas wish list? It might have been a magical moment, it might have been a little scary, or it might have been a total fiasco. Whatever it was, most of us remember. But have you ever stopped and thought of what it must be like to be in Santa's beard and red suit? Being a mall Santa is not all rosy cheeks and merriment.

Imagine dealing with hundreds of kids a day, taking hundreds of pictures a day, and listening to hundreds of "I want a Starlight Doll, and a Playstation 2" each and every day.

That is exactly what the brave Santas and elves do for six weeks of the year at area malls and other social settings. Santa spends the bulk of the Holiday season in front of a Polaroid camera, taking Barbie Doll requests, while excited parents do embarrassing things to make their children smile.

"I love this gig because I love kids," says a Santa twin from Westroads Mall. "That's not to say that there aren't days when I want to pack up the elves and catch the next flight to the North Pole."

Being Santa holds a lot of responsibility. You hold the fate of a child's Christmas joy on your lap. That

challenge is exactly why Kenny Kelly Sr. says he has spent 45 years bleaching his beard and ignoring his weight in order to portray Mr. Claus.

"The focus is the voice; it must be soft and gentle enough not to frighten children," Kelly says. "The eyes have to reinforce what the voice is saying. The eyes have to twinkle."

Kelly says that mall Santas have become a big business.

The oldest school for training Santa Claus wannabes is The Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School, established in 1937.

Schools across the country specializing in schooling Santa have been booming, according to [www.santaclauschool.com](http://www.santaclauschool.com).

One of the companies that employs Santa graduates is St. Louis-based Santa Plus, which supplied more than 300 shopping malls with professional Santas this year.

Santas are taught very important skills, like how to pick up children without straining their backs, and all the reindeer's names.

You do not have to attend Santa school to get a job at the mall; however, you will not get paid as much, either.

"It's like the real world," says Kelly. "Those who go to college usually end up making more than those who don't, right?"

Students from Santa Plus spend between eight to 10 hours in training. Upon graduation, naturally gifted Santas with white hair, a beard, and a "jolly" belly can make up to 20 percent more than those requiring a costume.

"The pay stinks if you have to get hair, a beard, or stuffing" says the jolly full-time Santa at Crossroads Mall, as he brushes stray snowflakes from his beard. "You start out at about \$7 an hour, maybe \$8 or \$9."

So the pay is not that great. But what exactly does the job require?

"All you have to have to be a mall Santa is a strong knee and a decent smile," the Crossroads Santa says jokingly. "Really, you have to have a lot more, but patience is the key."

Westroads' Santa says the days are long and the conditions are not great, especially the parents.

"Most of the time, the parents have more faith in the magic of Christmas than the child," he explains.

Crossroad Santa agrees. "You constantly have parents forcing their kids on your lap, little babies who have no idea who you are and kids that are crying and screaming. I feel kind of bad for those kids."

Another issue to deal with is those children whose parents will not accept that their child just does not buy into the whole Santa, Reindeer extravaganza.

The Westroads Santa recently had a run in with a child of this nature. "Just the other day, there was a boy, about six or so, who just recently learned the 'reality' of Santa. Unfortunately, he felt the need to share his new-found knowledge with all the other kids in line."

Next thing we know, there's an

**see santas, page 14**

# How much is that doggie in the window?

Sarah Meedel

'Tis the season and it is not uncommon for companies to be increasing their production levels to up profits. These production increases extend to the pet industry. Pet stores are stocking up their shelves with animals, but where are these animals coming from? A common myth is that the cute little creatures are bred and born into loving homes, then only temporarily placed in a nurturing store until they reach another home. Where they really come from is hardly a caring home of any kind.

The animals that are for sale in the pet stores come mostly from animal mills. The most frequently heard of is a puppy mill. A puppy mill is a place where purebred dogs are over-bred in extremely unhealthy conditions to keep up with consumer wants.

Recently, a PETA investigator went undercover at Nielsen Farms (a puppy mill in Kansas) where he witnessed the horror for himself. He saw dogs in small, over-crowded cages with jagged wires that provided no comfort, as they had nothing to lay on but their own fecal matter. The studs and brood-bitches were bred at an absurd

rate. The people in charge of breeding were ignorant and often would allow two dogs that would obviously produce puppies with defects to breed anyway, just so they could have their purebreds. The canines were given little food, water and veterinary care. The creatures were only allowed enough to keep them alive. Here is one cruel example: when one Labrador retriever's collar was not properly adjusted; it eventually became imbedded in her neck. Later it was removed and the gangrenous skin fell away; the only treatment she received was a spray of worm-repellent. Lucky are those who receive vet care of any kind; when a mother dog can no longer produce puppies, luck is not in her favor. The mother is typically viewed as useless and is shot to death instead of merely being put to sleep.

The dogs come from these places because the cost is low to the owners of the store and allows the store to have specific breeds on hand at all times. The horrible conditions for the puppies do not end simply where their life began. One ex-employee who used to work for two large chain pet stores says the pups were taken too early from their mothers, at the age of four weeks, so by the time they

reached the store, they were six weeks old and ready to sell. Many puppies would come out of the overcrowded shipping cart very sick or dead. They received no water or food during the trip. The living ones were cleaned up a bit and given the store's allowance of food, a mere quarter-cup a day. The company figured if less goes in, then less comes out, therefore creating less clean-up time. The pet store employees were told to sell the sick puppies and tell the customers that they are just calm pets. While there, the dogs would receive no medical treatment, regardless of how ill they became. If an employee took a sick animal to the vet on his or her own time, it was grounds for firing.

If someone decides to purchase a puppy from a pet store anyway, a credit will be issued. If the dog dies, you will be able to come back and get another puppy mill critter instead. What good is a credit, though? It does not replace the attachment one gains in owning a pet and the loss one feels when it dies or becomes ill. The credit only covers the new dog, which may give one the same heartache again. The refund policy does not reimburse the

see Doggie, page 15

# USC sexual orientation policy draws fire

Jeff Stensland  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

USC's faculty senate angered some lawmakers by recommending the university include sexual orientation in its anti-discrimination policy.

Now some students and faculty are now fuming over comments made by a member of the board of trustees.

The faculty senate voted 48-14 Wednesday to approve a proposal to add sexual orientation to a list of categories, including race, gender and religion, in its Equal Opportunity policy.

The recommendation does not address health benefits for same sex couples or extend affirmative action policies at the school.

After the vote, board of trustees member and former home builder Michael Mungo accused gays and lesbians of "trying to take over the world."

Kevin Lewis, a religious studies professor at USC, said Mungo's comments are insulting.

"These comments sound like the ones white racists made about black people decades ago," he said. "Mr. Mungo has outlived his usefulness on the board."

Mungo, who has served on the board since 1969, will begin another four-year term in January, pending ratification by the General Assembly.

On Thursday, Mungo again showed disapproval with the

faculty senate's decision.

He said that gays and lesbians who push for non-discrimination policy changes have a hidden agenda.

"None of them really feel okay, so they're trying to get the rest of us to put a big stamp of approval on their back," he said.

Also this week, Sen. John Hawkins, R-Spartanburg, S.C., said he will introduce a bill that would prevent any state institution from singling out gays and lesbians for protection from discrimination.

"In my view, an administrator should be allowed to refuse to hire someone because of their sexual orientation," Hawkins said. "We should be able to exclude open homosexuals from teaching our kids."

Lt. Gov. Bob Peeler, a GOP gubernatorial candidate, also sent a letter to the board of trustees urging them not to adopt the faculty senate's recommendation.

Peeler said he's concerned about the legality of such a policy. He referenced existing state laws that make sodomy and fornication illegal.

"As one dissenting professor said ... 'we're essentially legitimizing actions or activities that run against state law,'" Peeler said.

USC President John Palms dismissed the same proposal in 1993, saying he had worried it

see USC, page 14

# Happy Holidays

from  
UNO Student Government



# Happy Holidays

From the



# UNOCCC

University of Nebraska at Omaha Child Care Center

Child Care Center is unit  
of Student Affairs







# opinions&editorials

## Letters to the Editor

December 4, 2001

Dear Editor:

I was glad to read the frank discussion about the birth control pill ("Pill Poppin' Facts" by Sarah Meedel, Nov. 30). But the story focused on the extreme and rare side effects of the pill, and contained mis-information, like the myth that the pill causes an increased risk of cancer. I hope you'll share the following information with your readers:

Over the years, there has been a lot of fact and fiction spread about birth control pills, which leads to some confusion. The fact is, the birth control pill may help many women live longer, healthier lives.

Cutting a woman's risk of deadly cancer is one of the most powerful properties of the pill. In fact, long-term use of the pill can cut the risk of ovarian cancer by 10 percent for every year you take it, which dramatically lowers your risk of endometrial or uterine cancer. Protection begins within the first year. The theory is that the pill inhibits ovulation, which could lead to cellular changes, which may lead to ovarian or endometrial cancer.

The pill can help control uterine fibroids,

endometriosis and ovarian cysts. It can also help protect you from pelvic inflammatory disease.

One of the biggest myths about the birth control pill is that it's very risky. However, doctors say that the birth control pill is actually very safe. Safer than having a baby or even driving to work in your car.

Another myth is that it causes breast cancer. According to most studies, the pill does not increase the risk of breast cancer.

Another myth — the pill causes weight gain. In fact, new studies show that as many women lose weight as gain it.

Also, long-term use of the pill is no longer considered dangerous, partly because the pills contain less estrogen than now, so many gynecologists give the pill to older women to ease them through perimenopause. It can decrease hot flashes, vaginal dryness. It can help bones, which decreases the risk of osteoporosis.

There seems to be a reason for almost every woman to ask her health provider if the birth control pill is for her.

Sincerely,  
Becki Brenner  
President/CEO  
Planned Parenthood of  
Omaha-Council Bluffs

December 3, 2001

Gateway Editor:

I would like to respond to the letter published in the Nov. 27 "Letters to the Editor" section of the Gateway. Steph Engelbart is doing what many of us have been doing for quite some time, and that is publicly complaining about the parking problems at UNO. I realize that there are limited budgets and land resources on the UNO campus, but parking is an issue that the time has come to take action.

During this past summer, students and staff of UNO were all notified that there was an increase in the parking fees at UNO beginning this semester. At that time, I listened to my fellow students (and faculty) renew their complaints about the parking situation at UNO. I

believe there was also an article published in the Gateway concerning the reasons behind the increases in parking fees. I was furious as I am now about the parking situation and feel it is time for our elected student government and the administration at UNO to deal with the issues.

I think that we need to take a serious look at how parking is structured and make sure all students purchasing a parking pass know what the problems are. Ms. Engelbart was wrong in assuming that purchasing a parking sticker would ensure her parking space. I do believe that campus security makes it clear that parking spaces are limited and no space is guaranteed. Rather, she should be furious in the fact that her parking fees are

see Parking, page 14

December 4, 2001

Dear Editor:

I feel an obligation to respond to Josh Bashara's attempt at making me feel pity towards terrorists. Mr. Bashara fails to see the implications on a national and international level. For the past eight years, America has been attacked by bin Laden and his supporters; for the past eight years, America has done very little. They have investigated all of the crimes with every resource available; they have also convicted some of those responsible. Yet, still the attack on Sept. 11. It has become apparent to the current president that those measures have failed to provide safety to Americans in their own country. Mr. Bashara feels that we should treat terrorists as we do criminals. The only problem is, they are not criminals. No criminal has ever killed over 5,000 people. Terrorists are not even protected by the Geneva Conventions. Bin Laden and his cohorts need

to be treated for what they are: enemies of the United States of America.

By the time you read this, we will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Does Mr. Bashara feel we acted incorrectly in World War II? Should we have just let the Axis powers take over the rest of the world while we gathered evidence to prosecute them in the court of law? If he or anybody feels that way, then not only are they wrong, they have no understanding of what was gained from the victory of WWII. Yes, many people died, both military and civilian. But look at what was gained. There are survivors of concentration camps, there are the countries of Poland, France, Israel, Britain and Russia (to name a few).

There are people who embody evil. Nobody would want to have Hitler over for dinner — the same goes for bin Laden. Mr. Bashara forgets to mention how the landscape of the United States has been forever changed. Yes, it is

see United 1, page 7

December 5, 2001

Dear Editor:

This is in response to Josh Bashara's column, "United We Murder." What Bashara does not seem to understand is that we are not initiating a war in Afghanistan. Sept. 11 initiated war. This is to ensure it does not happen again. We stood by and watched destroyed Marine barracks, the U.S.S. Cole, the embassy bombings. It took the destruction of the World Trade Towers for us to take serious action. Had we stalled again, what would have been next? A nuclear strike on Washington? What exactly is the point where we say "that is enough"?

The problem with pacifism in THIS case is that it is terribly closed-minded. No military actions are even considered. It's like abolishing the police force to instead close your eyes and pretend crime doesn't exist. Nobody desires war except fanatics like bin Laden. Americans desire peace. We are not

targeting Afghan civilians. Quite the opposite. Do you know of any other nation that would drop food into hostile territory? Did bin Laden drop medical supplies into Brooklyn as he demolished Manhattan? And to answer Bashara's question as to whether the media would report bombing misfires — of course it would. Al-Jazeera reports whatever the Taliban say, no matter how ridiculous. And any journalist in Afghanistan would jump at the chance to be the first American to report a mishap. If the Afghan people are being so carelessly slaughtered, as Bashara claims, then why are they overjoyed in every town freed of the Taliban? They are discarding their burqas and playing music for the first time in five years! They are receiving food and medical supplies! We have been kinder to the Afghan people than the Taliban themselves! This battle did not have to occur. The Taliban were given weeks to hand over bin

see United 2, page 14

December 6, 2001

Dear Editor:

Totally DURANGed was described by the UNO theater department as "Christopher Durang's joy ride thru the land of dysfunction." Not all rides are worth taking though, and I think it is important to look critically at this divisive play.

The most controversial piece, "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You," is a vivid example of what happens when truth is distorted. Few things are as deadly as 90 percent truth and 10 percent lies. In "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You," the Sister has a lot of truth, but is missing some too. Several times she begins to quote a bible verse that contains truth, and stops before Jesus makes his point. She forgets that Jesus offered encouragement to those who lacked faith, and praised the little children's unabashed desire and trust. She can't answer "If God is all-powerful, why is there evil in the world?" even when she can quote one of the many books in the bible with the answer. In Job, God doesn't test mankind; Satan acts out of hate to destroy. God actively stops Satan from being able to hurt Job as much as he would like. The characters in "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" have a right to be angry — they have been lied to. God not only condemns sin because it hurts us and others, but he offers forgiveness and desires our freedom: the true freedom of a heart set free from guilt and healed from the wounds given us by others.

Also, I believe society should respect sacred elements. The playbill's insert stated, "In this time of national crisis, the UNO Theatre Department believes it is especially

relevant to emphasize the American values of tolerance and informed criticism ... and the ability to enjoy a good laugh." It is important to be able to laugh — but to laugh at everything shows a lack of judgment. Respect for human suffering, particularly death, as entertainment it is breaking down the very foundation of community. I have no problem having my worldview challenged; I will respect a dissenting view. However, for tolerance to take place, all views deserve that respect — including Judeo-Christian ethics.

My final response is to note the difference between academic dialogue or "informed criticism" and monologue. For any play, including this one, to truly create learning, it must allow for a dialogue where both sides of view are presented. "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" failed to present a view; it simply gave an emotional appeal against one. Through association and exaggeration, it made an argument that would never survive a debate, or even an open forum where rules of logic or cross-examination would force a dialogue. My challenge to the drama department is to balance

Totally DURANGed with a play with as strong of an argument for Christianity. Or perhaps, to be more reflective of "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You," run a play with an argument against naturalism. As S.G. Tallentyre said in *The Friends of Voltaire*, "While I may despise what you say, I will defend to my death your right to say it." However, I ask that you do the same for me.

Evangeline North



### Editorial and letter policy

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the University of Nebraska at Omaha or the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

Opinions in columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Gateway staff or the publications committee.

Letters to the editor will be selected for publication on the basis of timeliness, clarity

and available space. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for publication.

Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writers address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

"I never believed in Santa Claus because I knew no white dude would come into my neighborhood after dark."

- Dick Gregory

# Cruisin' the news

Capel Cottage Review  
David M. Johnson

Well, this is it.

For three and a half years I have been writing this column, trying to bring at least a smile to your face, especially on those days when professors are demanding 30-page research papers written in strict MLA format on such topics as: "Our Friend The Survey Telescope," "My Dysfunctional Family," "Collecting Limestone For Fun And Profit" and "How Can The Isosceles Triangle Solve UNO's Parking Problems?"

But, this is it. The last one. The final column.

I am graduating — after eight years — on Dec. 21, in what will surely be the graduation ceremony to end all graduation ceremonies.

I've accepted a faculty position teaching social studies at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, otherwise known as "heaven." I'm teaching there now, and let me tell you, it is the best job in the world. I start for real (meaning ... teaching for an actual paycheck) on Jan. 7, 2002, teaching freshman World Cultures and senior American Government.

The young ladies there are terrific. Oh sure, we have our discipline problems just like any other school — gum chewing, shirts not tucked into uniform skirts, drool marks on shoes following the mandatory Brad Pitt seminars.

Anyway, if you want to come by and say, "Hi" sometime, that would be great.

I did enjoy working for *The Gateway*. It feels rather strange knowing I won't be coming in here on Mondays,

Wednesdays and Sundays to cover sports and write my Capel Cottage column. This is the only job I've had since coming back to school full-time in 1998. Being a creature of habit, I know I'll steer my car here some morning thinking this is where I am supposed to be. I am a guy; I am an idiot.

Now that I'm leaving and this is my last column, I think I'll tell you exactly how I feel about this university:

- We have a beautiful campus.
- I can truthfully say I learned at least one thing in every course which will directly help me create a better life for myself.
- I hate group projects, but that's me.
- My counselor, Peggy, should receive her sainthood from the Pope any minute now.
- I have never met anyone on campus who did not freely give of themselves when asked for help.
- We have a terrific football team and need more people in the stands to cheer them on.
- Some professors use PowerPoint to the point of nausea.
- I ate far too many personal pizzas and not enough salads, but that's me.
- The UNO library is top-notch.

I guess there's only one thing left to say ... It sure is nice being a UNO alum.

*[Editor's Note: On behalf, of the entire Gateway staff, I'd like to thank Dave for his tireless contributions to this publication over the last four years — he will easily go down in the Gateway annals as "most prolific" writer, if not "oldest." ]* ☺

## In defense of terrorists? — from United 1, page 6

unfortunate if innocent people are killed when a missile goes off course. Is it better for the people of Afghanistan to live under an oppressive ruler? Where women cannot vote, men have to sport beards and the average person is expendable in the eyes of the Taliban? If Mr. Bashara would rather turn the other cheek while everything he holds dear (freedom of speech) is spit on, then so be it. I, as a red-blooded American, would rather give my life than have to lose any of the rights we currently possess.

Mr. Bashara claims to be a

pacifist and a realist. He is entitled to his claims, but one thing he is not is a realist. If he remembers, the United States already funded money to help Afghanistan obtain freedom — look what that got us. Now, the United States and other nations are helping Afghanistan to form a constitution for their people. Mr. Bashara wants to throw money at the problem in the hopes that it will fix itself. Sadly, it will not fix itself. It is time for the United States to help the people of Afghanistan.

The United States is not throwing bombs indiscriminately around the country of Afghanistan. It is also dropping TONS of food daily. The United States military is helping to clear roads so that convoys of food from the Red Cross can get through. It is a tragedy whenever an innocent person

killed. But it is also a tragedy when over 5,000 people die just because they went to work.

The United States can no longer turn the other cheek and prosecute people that other countries will let us. The United States has to fix the problem to protect the freedoms we all hold so dear. If Mr. Bashara would like to raise his voice against that, so be it. But, he should keep in mind that if he were living in Afghanistan and raised his voice against the Taliban, then he would be shot.

Bin Laden will be wishing he had done this when we were turning the other cheek and telling him that we would prosecute him. Now, he has to deal with an administration that is determined to fix the problem. I, like thousands of other Americans, have a family member and friends in the United States military. We lucky few who know someone in the military sleep better at night knowing that America's best and brightest are willing to protect the freedoms that politicians, lawyers, TV and newspapers always claim to be defenders of. God bless America, and the men and women of the United States of America. We all owe you thanks for what you are doing.

Nicholas A. Dostal



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## Strap on wrist guards before you snowboard

Lisa Liddane  
The Orange County Register

This winter, wrist guards may be a snowboarder's best friend.

Wrist injuries are the most common snowboarding injury - accounting for 21.6 percent of all snowboarding injuries, according to a 10-year survey conducted by researchers at Vail-Summit Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine in Vail, Colo. The survey, which logged 7,430 snowboarding injuries, appeared last year in the American Journal of Sports Medicine.

Wrist guards or wrist protectors are effective in preventing injuries to that area, according to two studies.

In a study for two ski seasons of 2,355 first-time snowboarders, 551 enrolled in a beginning class wore a commercially available wrist brace designed for inline skating, while 1,804 did not.

The snowboarders who wore the wrist guards did not sustain any wrist, hand, elbow or shoulder injuries, according to researchers at the New Hampshire Knee Center in Plymouth,

Among the snowboarders without guards, researchers found 40 wrist injuries, consisting of 22 sprains and 18 fractures.

The study was presented at an American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine meeting in June.

Norwegian researchers at Lillehammer Central Hospital in Lillehammer and the Orthopedic University Clinic in Oslo also found favor with wrist guards.

They studied 5,029 snowboarders. Half wore a wrist brace; the other half did not.

Eight injuries occurred in the braced group; 29 injuries occurred in those without wrist protection.

This study appeared in October's American Journal of Sports Medicine.

Both American and European experts recommend that snowboarders of all levels wear wrist guards. Beginners tend to use their hands to break frequent falls. But even expert snowboarders, especially those who do tricks, are susceptible to wrist injuries.

They also debunked the belief by some that protecting the wrist will force

the injury to travel to the elbows and shoulders. "The forces do have to go somewhere, but the bigger joints tend to be stronger and to have more muscle supporting them," said Dr. Daniel O'Neill, one of the Plymouth researchers, in an American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine report.


Ultimately, the choice is up to the snowboarder.

If you're thinking about buying wrist guards, consider these tips:

Bring your gloves when trying on different brands to see which fits you best. Some wrist guards are worn inside gloves, others outside.

Wiggle your fingers to make sure the wrist guard is sized appropriately, stays snugly in place and does not pinch.

Look for adequate support for your palm, wrist and thumb. Some wrist guards come with double splints - one on top, another in the bottom.

Ask a competent sales person at a snowboard/ski equipment store for pros and cons and feedback from others about various wrist guards. 

### from SG Meeting, page 1

Becker said the letter did not pass because some thought the issue was still "up in the air," while "others simply didn't want to support anything that supported Riggs ascending."


"I believe the Senators still thought too many variables had not been satisfactorily answered at this time," Becker said, "and coupled with other dissenting dispositions, they were circumspect about giving their blessing to a Riggs presidency."

The failure of the legislation to pass does not have any bearing on Riggs becoming student body president/regent.

The prospect of a statute

in the Nebraska state constitution affecting the status of the student body president/regent position seems unlikely.

After speaking with NU attorney Richard Wood at this weekend's Board of Regents meeting, Becker said that while close, the office of student body president/regent at UNO did not fall under the statute's jurisdiction.

Wood told Becker he would send the matter to the state attorney's office for further review if the Senate requested him to do so. Becker and the senators are still undecided about whether or not they would like a review by the state attorney's office. 


### from ABC, page 1

Schmidt also explained to the crowd what happened in the company during its down time and talked of how the company worked to build an entirely new corporate culture, rekindling relationships with past customers and reaching out to new customers in non-traditional ways.

Schmidt offered these words of wisdom to those at the breakfast: "Never do what's expected, make yourself as noticeably different as possible and have a lot more fun than

you're supposed to."

The ABC Breakfast Series continues March 27, 2002, when pilot and engineer Donna Shirley delivers her lecture, "The Mars Pathfinder Exploration: Managing Martians."

The ABC Breakfast Series is held by UNO in cooperation with the DLR Group, Enron, the Strategic Air and Space Museum, the Omaha Home for Boys and the UNO Alumni Association. 

### from Finder, page 2

more on the subject matter.

A link is also available to post messages back in forth between others who have used the selector. Most posted comments are in favor of the Web site.

"Ginger," writes: "... I did it as a test to see if it was 'for real.' It is. If you don't like the results, then it is time

to reevaluate your walk of faith ..."


Many feel that religion and belief systems are too personal and multi-dimensional to be defined and interpreted loosely or in a generalized manner.

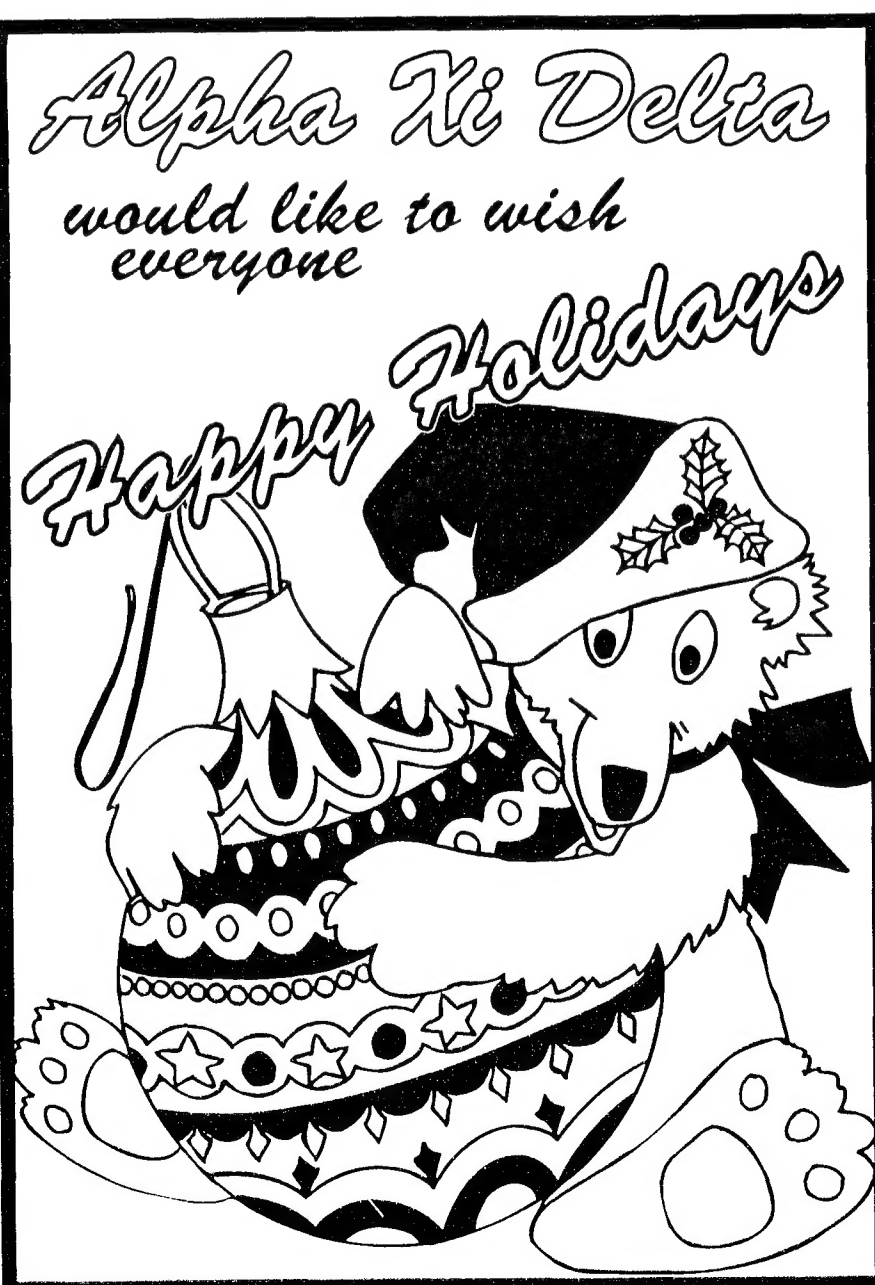
J.S. Voros posts the comment: "To tell the truth, I was very disappointed in the

range of questions. My results could not have been further from what I feel."

The UNO senior, after his own experience, points out: "You have to take it all with a grain of salt. You can't take the selector literally; you have to put it all into perspective and find out what everything really means to

you."

Among Microsoft Encarta's definitions of what religion is exists the idea of religion being a "set of strongly-held beliefs and attitudes a person lives by." Simply put, religion is not as complicated as we make it out to be; it can be as simple as listening to ourselves. 



## UNO Career Center

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# The Box, the Cube and the PS2

## Your holiday gaming guide

Justin Ballard

The holiday season is just two weeks away. School is out and you have two weeks to just relax. What do you do to entertain yourself?

Go out or invite some friends over for a round of video games

With the holiday season ahead comes the video game war. Three systems are trying to get a chunk of the \$20 billion video game industry, according to *USA Today*. The leaders in the video game world are the Playstation 2 by Sony, longtime veteran Nintendo with the GameCube, and newcomer Microsoft with the XBox. Following is an in-depth look at the three video game systems to show you which system and games will give you the most thrills for your buck.

### Playstation 2

The king of the video game universe, according to *USA Today*, PS2 has sold 5 million units since its November 2000 launch. It continues to sit on the video game throne, and is not expected to lose it anytime soon. PS2 is designed to be the total entertainment package: it can play hundreds of PSX games, as well as DVDs and music CDs. Next year, the system will offer an online gaming network. PS2 offers the largest library of games, with such hits as Electronic Arts' *Madden 2001*, *Knockout Kings*, *NBA Live 2001* and Namco classics such as *Tekken* and *Ridge Racer 5*, but even the king of the video game throne has its flaws. One is that many of the games are just rehashes of existing PSX games, like *Tekken Tag* (really *Tekken 3*) and *Smackdown 3* (same name PSX game). Few games have really shown the system's power. Other flaws are the

expensive memory cards (\$30, although PSX memory cards work too) and annoying compatibility issues with the DVD remote controls. On the bright side, Sony is developing its own DVD remote control. The PS2 is the darling of the video game industry, making it popular among developers and a safe bet for consumers.

### Nintendo GameCube

Remember the day when everyone had a Sega Genesis or Nintendo Entertainment System, and it didn't matter whether your system could play DVDs or if you had Internet access? This is what the Nintendo GameCube tries to capture — that era of video game nostalgia. Nintendo GameCube comes in a compact form, and is designed to play games only. Nintendo has always defied the video game industry by using its own format — for example, when other systems were using CDs, Nintendo's N64 still used the cartridge format, and this time they chose 3-inch minidisks. The controller fits comfortably into your hands. Nintendo's GameCube's greatest advantages are its low price (\$199, and lowest of the three by \$100) and its revival of popular classics, such as Mario, Zelda, and Donkey Kong. Its Japanese showing was less than stellar, but it has yet to be seen how these cubes will do in the U.S.

### XBox

The XBox is Microsoft's entry into the video game industry, created because of prodding by Microsoft CEO Bill Gate's friends. XBox is America's first serious attempt at a video game system since Atari. The XBox is the most powerful system ever built, using one of the biggest marketing

### from Afghan, page 1

relationship that would ultimately form the current leadership of the Center for Afghanistan Studies.

In the late '70s, Yaseer was studying in Britain. His old friend Gouttierre, now director of UNO's Center for Afghanistan Studies, contacted him, urging him not to return to Afghanistan, but to instead flee to the United States because of the impending Soviet invasion.

But with family still in Afghanistan, Yaseer decided to return.

While working as an English instructor at Kabul University in the Afghan capital of Kabul, Yaseer gradually tired of the continuous impositions made by the invading Soviets and the "advisers" they had assigned to various departments throughout the college.

But after "six or seven years," the constant interrogations and body, office and home searches had gotten worse and worse, says Yaseer.

"I had to leave, though I didn't want to," he now says.

With his wife and two young children in tow, Yaseer "secretly left" Afghanistan in April 1987, traveling by night through mine-filled mountain passes on the backs of donkeys, sleeping in villages by day. "We were careful, but very much scared," he says.

After three days and three nights, Yaseer and his family arrived in neighboring Pakistan, where he found safe refuge in the form of a UNO educational outpost.

After 18 months, Yaseer and his

family headed directly to Omaha and the inviting arms of UNO and the center.

Now, nearly 15 years after first fleeing Afghanistan, Yaseer faces the opportunity to return to his homeland — and to take with him the ideals of the center.

Yaseer says "if peace is established," UNO could feasibly have its old educational programs re-established in the near future.

"We've been involved [in years past] with education at all levels — elementary, secondary, higher education — in various fields. We would like to reoccupy Kabul University, as well as the elementary and secondary education in which we have been involved over the years."

Yaseer also hopes the formerly vigorous student trade between the two universities will be revived.

"We have a good reputation of being neutral, and being effective, and Afghan-oriented, so we have a good standing among the people ... So, as soon as some kind of government is established, we will move in."

At this point, nobody's better than us."

Understandably, Yaseer's possible return to Afghanistan also holds great personal importance.

"I would like to spend the last days of my life in Afghanistan," he says. "That is the desire of many Afghans, especially people of older age. And now, there is the opportunity to return." ☺

## Donor conviction will not change Brown University center's name

Timothy C. Barmann  
*The Providence Journal*

Brown University has no plans to change the name of its prestigious Taubman Center for Public Policy, named after the wealthy businessman and philanthropist convicted in New York on Wednesday of masterminding a price-fixing scheme.

A. Alfred Taubman, the former chairman of New York auction house Sotheby's, was found guilty by a federal jury of conspiring with his counterpart at rival auction house Christie's to fix fees charged to art sellers. He faces a possible jail term of three years at his sentencing April 2.

Taubman, 76, of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., has denied any involvement.

Brown University officials had little to say of the conviction.

"It was sad news," said Darrell M. West, director of Brown's Taubman Center and a political science professor at the university.

Mark Nickel, a Brown spokesman, said the university had no official

response.

Nickel said he was not aware of any plans to revisit Taubman's name being associated with its public policy center.

Taubman made his fortune in real estate by developing shopping malls. His company, Taubman Centers Inc., also based in Bloomfield Hills, owns or manages 31 malls in 13 states, including one in Stamford, Conn. He was described in a New York Times article in the late 1970s as "a pioneer in the development of the new, multilevel regional shopping mall." Fortune magazine puts his net worth at \$770 million.

He has long been generous with his money and that generosity has extended to Brown. Taubman gave the university about \$3.2 million between 1983 and 1994, West said, a gift that allowed the university to establish a center for public policy.

Taubman's son William graduated from Brown in 1981. Taubman also had a close relationship with the late Brown president, Howard R. Swearer, West said.

In addition, Taubman donated or pledged \$36.6 million to the University of Michigan, which he attended. In 1988, Taubman gave \$15 million to Harvard University, which created the A. Alfred Taubman Center for State and Local Government.

A brief biography posted on Brown's Web site says that Taubman's philanthropic interests include the arts, education, medical research and a variety of Jewish causes. He was once principal owner of the Michigan Panthers, a USFL football team, and owner of a chain of 650 A&W Root Beer stands.

"Taubman was interested in the intersection between politics and economics," said West. "Out of that came the emphasis on public policy because Brown was interested in developing a center for public policy."

The businessman had only general suggestions about how his money should be used, according to a news article at the time

see Brown, page 10

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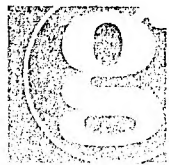
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## Back by popular demand Art Quest rediscovers Joslyn

Bobbi McCollum

It's the same thing! Joslyn Art Museum has brought back its popular *Art Quest: Learning to Look* exhibit, only this time it's got a little extra zing to it.

The exhibit, which is the seventh in Joslyn's annual series of Mind's Eye Gallery presentations, teaches visitors what to look for when viewing art. And this time around, there are reproductions of an array of works from Joslyn's permanent collection, including William Merritt Chase's *Sunlight and Shadow* and Jackson Pollock's *Galaxy*.

The reproductions are designed to stimulate each of the Art Quest ideas: description, material exploration, style, theme, expression and so on. Interactive labels help visitors apply these concepts to specific works of art.

Maybe all of this art "mumbo jumbo" just isn't for you. You don't want to be an innocent bystander, you want to be part of the action. You're in luck, you role-player. A new hands-on station has been developed for the exhibit. The *Express Yourself* area encourages young visitors to use the provided costumes, props, masks and mini-stage to become a character in a work of art. This allows the patron to act out the thoughts and conversations of the subjects seen in the work of art.

*Art Quest: Learning to Look* will open Dec. 15 and will be on display at the Joslyn Art Museum until Nov. 24, 2002. For more information, call 342-3300.

## The McCollege Tour hits McUNO

Mike Machian

With tuition constantly on the rise and parking on the decline, many people (not necessarily me or the staff of *The Gateway*) are beginning to think the administration is more concerned with money than education. While this may or may not be the case, we do not have it nearly as bad as other universities.

What other universities am I talking about? Yale and the University of Texas-Austin, for instance. *University INC.* and *The Subtext of University Education* are two documentary films that take an in-depth look at what happens when big business' interests are put ahead of students.

*University INC.* is about the University of Texas-Austin's decision to shut down a theater and film program to make room for fast food restaurants.

*Subtext* looks at a strike by custodial and cafeteria workers and the apathetic attitude of students and faculty.

These films constitute the McCollege Tour Fall 2001. The McCollege tour is a traveling film tour that has had over 45 showings across the country. It will be at UNO Dec. 13 in the Eppley Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Perhaps it will give some perspective on how evil our university is not — well, at least not yet.

## Top 17 CDs of the year

opinion by Rae Licari

The first year of the REAL new millennium is finally drawing to a close, and it's been an interesting year in the realm of CD acquisitions. Drum roll, please ... here's a list of the 17 CDs that stuck in my stereo the longest. Why 17, you ask? It's a nice uneven number and I like to be different, O.K.? And hey, if you don't like my picks, write your own damn list.

1. The Faint, *Danse Macabre* (Saddle Creek) — Local group The Faint returned with a fantastic third album. It's got mad dance beats. It's got crazy keyboards. It's got just a hint of gloom. What else can you ask for? This disc has been in my CD player since its release in August and doesn't look like it's budging any time soon.

2. Neva Dinova, *Neva Dinova* (independent release) — Another awesome local group with an awesome release. Neva Dinova debuted late into the year with an album full of beautiful atmospheric melodies and sweeping vocals.

3. Bird3, *Bird3* (Immergent) — Bird3 plays upbeat pop-rock with a punk edge. For once, that's really not such a bad thing.

4. Garbage, *Beautifulgarbage* (Interscope) — Garbage's third disc combines the punch of the first album with the fancy sonic effects of the second. It's a refreshing

see top CDs, page 15

## For Never ... more, hail Hollowed

Bobbi McCollum

"The groupie in general is a very scary thing," says Sean Baxter, singer/guitarist for Hollowed. "You really don't want to touch that stuff. You can have fun with it, but you REALLY don't wanna touch that stuff. If they're that willing, there's something way wrong with them."

If all goes well for Baxter and fellow band members Scott Armstrong (guitar/vocals), Kevin Hendricks (bass) and Dave Coon (drums), they'll be swimming in groupies. After all, if you have groupies, it means people dig your sound and find it worthwhile to sleep with you based solely on that. That's the kind of music record deals are made of — yeah, baby.

Although Hollowed just recently formed, a local fan base (minus the horny groupies) is nothing new to the group. All four members previously belonged to the band For Never.

"The key factor of what's different in the band now is we've gotten rid of the bad energies of the band, the individuals who didn't mesh with the band," Baxter says. "We weeded out the weak, basically."

Only the strong survive and their roar sounds like "melodic metal," Baxter says.

"I don't even know if that's a real

genre or not," Baxter says. "I'm probably making it up right now. I've heard people say that we're a cross of Iron Maiden and Metallica."

This comparison stems from the intricate, harmonized guitar work.

"It's not just noise," Baxter says.

There's also more to the lyrics than just extra "noise" and harmony. Much of the lyrical content comments on society, mainly religion. "We're emptying ourselves of all the bullshit we've been fed throughout our lives as far as what to think, what to believe and what is supposedly right," Baxter says. "We try to dig deeper than what's been told to us. We try to find the real truth."

Like every other band, Hollowed hopes to get signed and tour. But the goals don't stop there. Baxter explains that the band would love to have David Lee Roth as their personal bitch, roadie and chef.

"How f---in' cool would that be?!" Baxter says. "How cool would it be to have f---in' David Lee Roth make you food and say 'What's up, man? Your guitar sounds great. (Ding, ding, ding) I'm gonna have to check your microphone for ya. Laaaaaa.' That would be great."

Currently, Hollowed is working on the band's first album and preparing for its first show at the Ranch Bowl Dec. 22.

## Star Jones is always hungry for turkey

column by Paul Eide

A great man once said "You can pick your friends, but your family you're stuck with." Another guy also said "You can pick your friends and you can pick your nose, but you can't pick your friend's nose."

The thing I am most thankful for during this holiday season is that my force-fed family time is over. No longer will I have to smell Grandma's freshly opened packet of Depends and hear about their "unfathomable absorption density." Grandpa's rambling stories about his college days that inevitably lead to 20 minutes of him staring into space before he becomes aware of the fact he is awake, that people are listening to him and he was in fact telling a story, are also a thing of the past.

Family time inevitably leads to two things: 1) binge drinking and 2) deviant behavior. What's more fun than flipping the brake on Grandpa's wheelchair and watching his paper-like arms try and generate enough force to overpower the rubber brake pads? How about that face he makes when he realizes he can't reach the switch because he's so old he needs you to do it for him? Priceless, yet very deviant.

Another standard of family interaction is the family dinner. In my experience, Captain Morgan is the best friend a guy can have during this heinous combination of family and mastication. Time really moves when you're piss drunk. Conversation with family members will actually seem interesting and relevant once you're all sauced up. It's also a lot easier to pretend that you actually give a shit about Grandma's trip to the Mayo Clinic in an attempt to cure her irritable bowel.

If this all sounds cruel and heartless,

pat yourself on the back — you're right. Dealing with family should be filled with love and hugs, right? Well, it isn't, so fill your gullet with rum and food that someone else paid for. It's not easy putting up with fake smiles and fake concern, so lean toward self-medication in the form of substance abuse.

We all end up just like our parents and relatives in the long run, so isn't the family reunion the best reason ever to start doing drugs? All you have to do is look at your uncle's hairline to realize it's a long road to hell, so you may as well be under the influence of something other than the branches of the family tree. I mean, there's barely any leaves on the top branches anyway, right unc?

If your family happens to put the fun in dysfunctional, don't let it get you down — use it to your advantage. Society at large feels sorry for those of us from "broken homes," so lean on that crutch and lean good! Don't feel like turning that paper in on time? No problem. Just explain the distressing family situation of which you are a part to your professor and the compassion will flow like Star Jones' tears at Thanksgiving once she realizes her sixth helping of turkey will be her last.

It's a cold, sick world we live in, so do your part. Look at LaToya Jackson. Her brother's face is melting off right in front of her, but does she use that as an excuse? Yes! She does!! So why can't you use a distressing family situation as an excuse? LaToya did and now she's on her sixth nose and does porn! Beat that! It's the American way to abuse power unnecessarily. No matter how bad your family situation is during the holiday season, just remember, it would be a lot worse if your name was Jermaine or Tito. Step to that.

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## CD reviews

Kelsey Archer

KeKe Wyatt  
*Soul Sista*  
MCA Records  
\*\*\*

KeKe Wyatt's talents are apparent on this debut album, *Soul Sista*. This 10-track CD takes flight with the self-explanatory title.

These mid-tempo songs infuse emotion and vocal talents like a tightly packed snow ball.

Her debut album features body-bumping music that shows off her superior range, unique vocal style and flawless phrasing. The delivery is straight from the heart, leaving a burning mark.

Influenced by legends such as Stevie Wonder, Donny Hathaway, Ella Fitzgerald and Karen Clarke, KeKe's talent travels back through her life.

With a strong past, KeKe's future looks bright.

Something Corporate  
*Audioboxer*  
MCA Records  
\*\*\*\*

This five-member group creates a unique style on its first six-track EP. The music flows with great enthusiasm and melody. The band creates a simple style using drums,


guitar, piano, B3, bass and vocals. The combination resembles that of No Doubt, but the beat and lyrics come alive with a spunky style.

These guys are heading in the right direction with a strong sound and lyrics that add to the overall impact. The musical abilities of the band are visible in all of its songs as it uses a number of musical techniques to make the music funky, fresh and edgy.

Carly Hennessy  
*Ultimate High*  
MCA Records  
\*\*\*

Hitting high pitches and tones that jet out through the solar system, Carly Hennessy manages to create a spiritual relaxed feeling.

The name of this 12-track compact disc says it all: *Ultimate High*. The feelings evoked by the musical talents and vocal ability are exactly that.

The lyrics pull and tug for emotional impact. Songs like "Beautiful You," "Young Love" and "Rip in Heaven" exemplify Hennessy's ability to belt out, releasing the words that are pure from her soul. 

## Holiday Fanfare: Christmas in New York

preview by David M. Johnson

One of the Omaha holiday staples is the Omaha Symphony's annual Holiday Fanfare performances at the Orpheum Theater. This year's festivities are sure to please revelers of all ages.


Resident conductor Ernest Richardson and WOWT's Dave Webber host this spectacular story of one Omaha family's Christmas 1950 trip to New York.

The audience is in for a traditional treat. Street carolers, Salvation Army bands and kettle Santas greet the Omaha family with seasonal songs we've all come to know and love.

From there, we are whisked away to Radio City Music Hall, the Metropolitan

Opera House, Rockefeller Center, Apollo Theater, Times Square and even Carnegie Hall, where special guest artists are ready to perform classic Christmas music.

This will be the fourth year Dave Webber has hosted the Holiday Fanfare and it should prove to be his grandest yet.

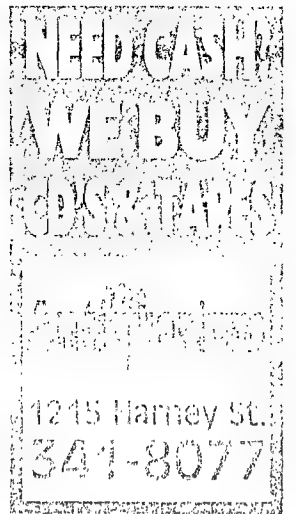
Tickets are \$13.50 to \$41.50 and can be purchased online at [www.omahasymphony.org](http://www.omahasymphony.org) or by calling 342-3560. There is a discount for college students with ID. 

**Dates and Times:**

Dec. 14, 2001 8 p.m.

Dec. 15, 2001 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Dec. 16, 2001 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.



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## What's opening in theaters this weekend

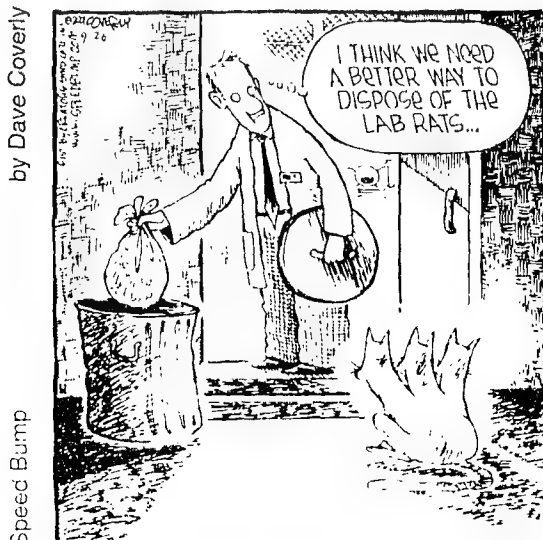
Philip Wuntch  
*The Dallas Morning News*

### Opening Dec. 14

**VANILLA SKY** - Yes, folks, this is the hotly anticipated romantic thriller that features two Cruises/Cruzes and two Camerons. Cameron Crowe (*Jerry Maguire*, *Almost Famous*) directs Tom Cruise, Penelope Cruz, and Cameron Diaz in a film that defies easy labeling. Rumors abide that the film may include a hint of fantasy or even science-fiction. The trailer sizzles with romantic thrills and chills.

**THE BUSINESS OF STRANGERS** - Stockard Channing and Julia Stiles star as a corporate pro and a young aspirant who play sexual mind games with a slow-witted man unlucky enough to cross their paths.

**NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE** - A high-school jock makes a bet that he can turn the class outcast into a prom queen. Advance word says that it zealously pushes the bad-taste envelope. 



"May this season  
bring you and yours  
hope, joy and peace  
as we look to a  
brighter future for  
our world"

Nancy Belck  
Chancellor



budgets in history, a whopping \$500 million, double the amount used to launch Windows 95 and 10 times the marketing budget of rival Nintendo's GameCube. It can play DVDs, but only with a special DVD playback remote. Xbox's graphics are more crisp and detailed than any other system's, but the controller feels like a canned ham in your hands. Is it worth it? Your choice.

*Gamecube*

**The Good :**

- 1. Nintendo exclusive
- 2. Low price
- 3. Compact, cutting-edge design

**The Bad:**

- 1. No DVD player
- 2. No Mario
- 3. Fewer features

**Must Have Games**

- 1. Luigi Mansion - Luigi is the star of this system as he sets out to find Mario.
- 2. Star War Rouge Leader Another exciting game in the Star Wars installment.
- 3. Super Mario Brother Melee The N64 classic, featuring traditional Mario characters fighting it out.

**The Good:**

- 1. Most popular system
- 2. Plays PSX games
- 3. Plays DVDs

**The Bad:**

- 1. Too many rehashes
- 2. Expensive memory cards
- 3. Incompatibility issues

**Must Have Games:**

- 1. Madden 2002 — The Ultimate football game, with all NFL teams and the ability to design your own uniforms.
- 2. Gran Turismo 3 — One of the most breathtaking driving games ever built, with over 150 exotic cars and more than 30 different race courses.
- 3. WWF Smackdown 3: Just Bring It — The number one wrestling game makes its PS2 debut with over 30 different wrestlers, including Rock Stone Cold and the Undertaker, and allows players to be WWF writers, with an interactive story mode and over 70 different match types.
- 4. Grand Theft Auto 3 - One of the most exciting crime-based driving action games, players fight to protect Liberty City.
- 5. Metal Gear Solid — The existing sniper game also makes its PS2 debut.


**The Good:**

- 1. Most powerful system ever built
- 2. Can play DVDs
- 3. Must-have games

**The Bad:**

- 1. Beefy controller
- 2. No out-of-the-box DVD player
- 3. Newcomer in a competitive field

**Must Have Games**

- 1. WWF Raw — WWF makes debut on Xbox with over 35 grapples, smooth gameplay and breathtaking graphics.
- 2. Madden 2002 — The ultimate football game comes to Xbox
- 3. Halo — Xbox's answer to Doom.
- 4. Dead or Alive — Hundreds of move and dozens of fighters equals an excellent tool for the creative gameplayer.
- 5. Project Gotham — Xbox's race game, with over 28 exotic cars racing alongside in cities like New York, Tokyo and London. 

Write for  
The  
Gateway  
December 11, 2001

*Local concert update*

compiled by Rae Licari

<b>OMAHA:</b>	12/21 Ike Reilly — 7th Street Entry
12/12 Sevendust — Sokol Auditorium	12/21 Shannon Curfman — Cabooze
12/13 Kottonmouth Kings — Ranch Bowl	12/26 Stuart Davis — Fine Line Music Cafe
12/14 Kottonmouth Kings — Ranch Bowl	12/27 Soul Asylum — Fine Line Music Cafe
12/15 Pigface — Ranch Bowl	12/27 Days of the New — First Avenue
12/15 Blue October — Music Box	12/28 Soul Asylum — Fine Line Music Cafe
12/15 Asleep at the Wheel — Sokol Auditorium	12/28 Cowboy Mouth — Cabooze
12/16 Alien Ant Farm — Ranch Bowl	12/29 Reverend Horton Heat — First Avenue
12/19 Lorie Line — Civic Auditorium	12/30 American Head Charge — First Avenue
12/20 Magic Slim and the Teardrops — Music Box	12/31 Dazy Head Mazy — Fine Line Music Cafe
12/31 The Confidentials — Music Box	01/21 Charlatans UK — Fine Line Music Cafe
01/18 Dark Star Orchestra — Music Box	01/21 Dark Star Orchestra — First Avenue
01/31 The Tony Furtado Band — Sokol Auditorium	01/21 Pennywise — Quest Club
	01/28 Stereophonics — Fine Line Music Cafe
<b>LINCOLN:</b>	
12/14 Blue October — Knickerbockers	
<b>LAWRENCE, Kan.:</b>	<b>KANSAS CITY, Mo.:</b>
12/14 Clutch — Bottleneck	12/11 Kottonmouth Kings — Beaumont Club
12/31 Split Lip Rayfield — Bottleneck	12/12 Over the Rhine — Grand Emporium
01/24 O.A.R. — Liberty Hall	12/13 Aerosmith — Kemper Arena
02/08 Fu Manchu — Bottleneck	12/20 Brave Combo — Grand Emporium
<b>MINNEAPOLIS:</b>	12/28 Reverend Horton Heat — Beaumont Club
12/12 Method Man and Redman — Quest Club	12/31 Trick Pony — Beaumont Club
12/16 Love as Laughter — 7th Street Entry	
12/18 Puddle of Mudd — Quest Club	
12/20 Ike Reilly — 7th Street Entry	



**from Islam, page 2**

purification or fasting (Siyam) and pilgrimage (Al-Hajj).

There is no hierarchical authority in Islam and no priests, so a learned person who knows the Quran, referred to as an Imam, leads the prayers. Prayers are said at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset and nightfall, and thus determine the rhythm of the entire day.

Each Muslim calculates his or her own zakat individually. For most purposes, this involves the payment each year of two and a half percent of one's capital.

Every year in the month of Ramadan, all Muslims fast from first light until sundown, abstaining from food, drink, and sexual relations. The purpose of fasting is to lead one to a deeper and richer perception of Allah by divorcing human desires and natural pleasures in observance of self-restraint.

The pilgrimage of Hajj to the House of God in Makka is a very important pillar of Islam. It manifests a unique unity, dispelling all kinds of differences by affording all Muslims from all groups, classes, organizations and governments from all over the world an opportunity to meet annually.

There are many misconceptions about the teachings of Islam which are fortified by distorted and often-warped media accounts of the truth. The greatest one of these would have to be the treatment of Muslim women in Islam. Islam sees the woman, whether single or married, as an individual in her own right, with the right to own and dispose of her property and earnings. The groom gives a marriage dowry to the bride for her own personal use, and she keeps her own family name rather than taking her husband's.

Both men and women

Muslims are expected to dress in a way that is modest and dignified; the traditions of female dress found in some Islamic countries are often the expression of local customs and not religious law.

Another misconception about the religion is the Islamic view on war. Like Christianity, Islam permits fighting in self-defense, in defense of religion, or on the part of those who have been expelled forcibly from their homes. It lays down strict rules of combat, which include prohibitions against harming civilians and against destroying crops, trees and livestock. As Islam teaches, injustice would be triumphant in the world if good men were not prepared to risk their lives in a righteous cause. The Quran says: "And fight in the Way of Allah those who fight you, but transgress not the limits. Truly, Allah likes not the transgressors" (2:190). "But if they incline to peace, you also incline to it, and put your trust in Allah. Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower" (8:61). War, therefore, is the last resort, and is subject to rigorous conditions laid down by the sacred law.

The term "jihad" literally means struggle, and Muslims believe that there are two kinds of jihad. Many use the term jihad in relation to war against enemies or oppressors. The other jihad is the inner struggle, which everyone wages against egotistic desires, for the sake of attaining inner peace.

Let the truth be told that Islam does not promote the treatment of women as second-class citizens, nor is it a religion that advocates war, suicide bombers or terrorism. Rather, it is a religion of peace that guarantees inalienable human rights

and the freedom of conscience as laid down by the Quranic verse: "There is no compulsion in religion." (2:256).

For all those who are seeking more information on Islam and the Muslim community, you can contact the Islamic Center of Omaha at 571-0720, located on 3511 N 73 St., between 73rd and Pinkney Streets. ☎

**from Holidays, page 2**

menorah. A Hanukkah menorah has eight branches and a holder for an extra candle that is used to light the others. A blessing is said each night as the Hanukkah candles are lit.

Hanukkah is a festive family occasion, with special foods and songs. Children generally receive small gifts or money, known as Hanukkah gelt (money), each evening after the candles are lit.

There are 12 days of Christmas, eight days of Hanukkah and seven days of Kwanzaa. By far the longest celebration during December occurs in Muslim households.

For 30 days, Muslims across the world celebrate Ramadan, the holy month of fasting that celebrates the revelation of the Quran to Muhammed. The appearance of the new moon signals the beginning of Ramadan and the sighting of the new moon of the next month signals the end of Ramadan.

During this year's Ramadan, the first day of fasting for most of the world began on Saturday, Nov. 17. A festival called Eid al-Fitr (Feast of Fast-Breaking) marks the end of Ramadan. Eid-al-Fitr will be Sunday, Dec. 16, in most of North and South America.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, abstaining from food, drink and sexual relations. At the Eid al-Fitr Feast children are normally given gifts. Also, women (particularly mothers, wives, sisters and daughters) are given special gifts by their loved ones. Prior to the start of the Eid prayer, every Muslim must pay Zakat al-Fitr, which are alms for the month of Ramadan. Different from the normal zakat, which is given to purify one's wealth, this zakat is usually given to local needy Muslims prior to the start of the Eid prayer. It can be given anytime during the month of Ramadan and is often given early so the recipient can utilize it for Eid purchases.

And there you have it. This holiday, show a little social conscience by rendering the proper holiday greeting. Wish your Muslims friends "Ramadan Mubarak" (Happy Ramadan), Jewish friends "Happy Hanukkah," African-American friends "Happy Kwanzaa" and Christian friends "Merry Christmas." ☎

**from Pagan, page 2**

However, Christians wanted to fully convert the people. As Morrison

writes, "If they couldn't beat the Pagans, they would join them." Because the people were already celebrating the return of the sun to the earth, the Christians substituted their son in his place and put Mary in as the mother-goddess.

To celebrate this "new" son-god, many pagans still practiced their old ways, but under new guises. Many of the things we do at this time of year have their origins in early pagan festivals. The Christmas tree is a prime example.

"Decorating of the tree began in Egypt and was then practiced by the Druidic people of Europe," claims Odorizzi.

The meaning of the tree itself is more interesting. Morrison explains that "because the green never faded from its branches and leaves, evergreens were thought to have power over death and destruction."

This power was believed to destroy the demons of the darkness and help the sun-god return to the earth.

Many other things that are commonplace around the holidays today were once thought to banish negative entities from the house. Noise from a bell or bright lights are thought to frighten away evil spirits.

"I have lights on my tree, but I know that it was originally candles," Westbrook says. "The candles were there to encourage the sun to shine and to banish evil spirits."

It doesn't stop at blinky lights, though. Morrison says the Yule log fits into this category

too. The log was burned during the Greek festivals "to keep away the mischievous Kallikantzaroi (elves)." These elves were thought to steal the souls of children born during the festival. When the Celts adopted this custom, the log was made of oak and adorned with holly. This symbolized their Oak King. The burning of the log was to begin on the day of the solstice and burn for twelve days. Whatever was left was to start the first fire of the new solar year.

In another common tradition, many people put tinsel on their trees. There is an interesting story to go along with this. Morrison, citing a story of unknown origin, claims spiders were not allowed near the evergreen tree. The spiders were not even allowed to look at the tree. They complained to the Christ child about this and he allowed them to see it. The spiders climbed the tree and covered it with webs. The child was so pleased with this act that he turned the strands to silver, and we have reproduced this tradition ever since.

There are many more traditions that have pagan origins that many people do not think about. To go along with this time of year, during many pagan celebrations, people forgave debts and feuds, and also had a general feeling of good will toward their fellow man. Perhaps we can use the pagan example and realize the true meaning of this holiday. The next time Dad begins to complain about how lights aren't working, just remind him that he is doing his part to welcome the sun-god back to earth. ☎

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# Have a safe vacation!



## from Parking, page 6

being used to subsidize the shuttle service for students who park for free in the south UNO lot. I have yet to find a rational reason why the students and staff have to pay a parking fee to subsidize other students who get to park for free and ride the shuttle service. (For you who have not been told, it was quoted by UNO staff this past summer that the cost to UNO for the shuttle service was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, and with the new budget cuts will probably become a major issue soon.) I find it very difficult to understand, but maybe it is the way our administration chooses to treat paying students. In addition to eliminating parking spaces for the construction of the new dorms a few years ago, students living there now

choose to park their cars in the lots closest to the dorms. It is amazing when you arrive at school in the wee hours of the morning, especially on weekends, and find the parking lots full of cars from students who live in the dorms.

In addition, she should be furious with campus security that enforces the parking rules on campus. Don't get me wrong, I have found campus security to be quite helpful and most pleasant to talk to. Their policies are what should be evaluated. I was quite stunned to learn while I was watching a security officer write parking tickets in the staff/faculty lot behind Allwine Hall that if you don't have a UNO parking sticker, you will not get a ticket. I personally witnessed this and asked

why some cars received tickets and others did not. The officer advised me that if you don't have any particular sticker at all and there is an event being held on campus (sports, etc.), they will not issue a ticket even though the lot is CLEARLY marked faculty/staff parking only. I would really like to hear the reasoning behind that policy.

The message should be clear to our student government: it is time that you address the parking issues at UNO. It is not rocket science and small changes that could quickly be implemented without difficulty could help tremendously.

**James Ruley**  
UNO Graduate Student

## from Santa, page 4

outburst of cries, parents trying to comfort their kids, and one embarrassed mom hauling her child off by the neck like a puppy."

Kelly recalls a similar experience. "A child jumped on my lap and said he knew I wasn't real and mooned me. I was almost as mortified as that kid's mom."

However, if you take away the spoiled children, the overbearing parents, the

crying, the bodily fluids, and those circles you get in front of your eyes after a photo flash, being a mall Santa is quite rewarding.

All three Santas say they found satisfaction in their seasonal work. "It feels good for a child to be so enthusiastic about you and know that you can make their day", says the Crossroads Santa.

"You are fulfilling wishes and making dreams

come true. You can see it by the way their eyes gloss over right before they climb up on your lap," Kelly says.

Westroads Santa felt it was like charity work. "Some of these kids will never see the things they ask for under the tree, but the fact that they are satisfied because they got to sit on your lap and whisper in your ear and touch your beard is so heartwarming." ☺

## from United 2, page 6

Laden, but refused. They forced this hand by intertwining themselves with al-Qaida.

Unfortunately, civilians are going to be lost in any conflict. We lost 3,500 at home. Millions of innocent people were killed in World War II, one of the greatest triumphs ever of good over evil. Should we have not fought the Nazis, who were just as vicious as the Taliban are now? How about the American Revolution? The only reason we have any of our civil rights is because we had gone to war. Pacifists, whose intentions I'm sure are good, unfortunately seem to view conflict in terms of black and white — "all war is bad, unnecessary and unjustified." Well, that is most certainly not the case in taking out terrorists. Bashara disagrees with President Bush's declaration that "those who harbor our enemy are also our enemy" by likening it to a priest offering sanctuary to a murderer. Comparing the Taliban to a priest is horribly inaccurate, because

a priest would not continue to offer sanctuary to the murderer (bin Laden) if said murderer begins shooting people from the church bell tower. The Taliban have long known bin Laden to be responsible for past and present terrorist attacks and have continued to keep him as their "guest."

Pacifist Bashara, "in his infinite wisdom," gave the solution to this mess as having either the CIA go in and investigate this "crime," or by having us arm the Northern Alliance. Both solutions are illogical. Are we to have the CIA surround Tora Bora in unmarked cars? Have U.S. marshals knock on the door and tell bin Laden's bodyguards that we have a warrant for his arrest? This foolish undertaking would result in a lot of dead American law enforcement because the Taliban would never go for this. As for arming the Northern Alliance to fight the Taliban, Bashara himself admits this would be a slow process. All a prolonged conflict would do is needlessly kill far more

Afghans than would be hurt from bombing accidents. If what we are doing is so wrong, why did the Northern Alliance plead for increased air support? Innocent Afghans and Northern Alliance fighters have been through far too much in the last 20-plus years. The country is already ravaged, and will be reconstructed with U.S. funding. We should be helping them kick the Taliban out, so that these poor people can hopefully have some peace.

Bashara claims that we engaged the Taliban and al-Qaida militarily, rather than allowing a drawn-out stalemate, because we are an impatient society. No, it's because we don't need to allot them time to plan a repeat of Sept. 11. He insinuates that the pacifist stance is questioned only by conservatives and right-wingers, yet support for the war is at higher than 90 percent. "United We Murder?" Maybe as a slogan for Islamic militants.

**Michael Zack**

## from USC, page 5

could open the school to lawsuits since no state law singled out sexual orientation as a protected category.

Mungo also said the policy change would give gays and lesbians a reason to sue USC.

"The gays and lesbians harass you, try to intimidate you," he said. "That's why we can't do this, because they'll sue you the first chance they get."

Faculty senate chairman Rob Wilcox said he's worried the faculty senate's proposal won't be taken seriously.

"I would just ask that anyone who is asked to act on this resolution give it full consideration. I'm a bit concerned by the suggestion that the views of the faculty senate were irrelevant," Wilcox said.

Wilcox said other faculty members were upset after reading Mungo's comments after Wednesday's vote.

Zach Scott, chairman of the student government's policy change committee, called Mungo's views "antiquated" and accused him of trying "to push a line between people."

Jeff Crews, president of USC's Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association said while he respects Mungo's right to express his views, he "strenuously" disagrees with them.

Crews declined to comment on Hawkins' proposed legislation.

Hawkins said he doesn't know if his bill will pass, but said he would introduce it shortly after the Legislature meets in January.

"I suspect it'll get strong support from certain parts of the state," Hawkins said. ☺

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# from top 17, page 10

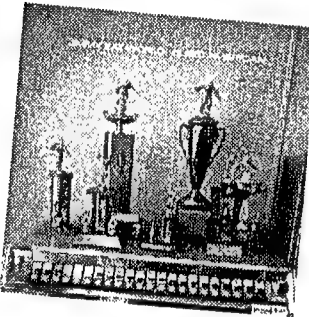
combination.

5. Stabbing Westward, *Stabbing Westward* (Koch) — O.K., so the fourth album from Stabbing Westward lacks the



fancy industrial effects, angst and rage of the previous three. Matter of fact, it's downright happy for the most part. But taken on its own, the disc is actually quite decent.

6. They Might Be Giants, *Mink Car* (Restless) — The triumphant return of the offbeat pop-rock duo known as They Might Be Giants was evidenced in the group's latest studio album. Hail to the Giants.



7. Jimmy Eat World, *Bleed American* (Dreamworks) — The disc is emotionally driven and has the ability to rock your socks off while retaining poppy melodies. That is

quite an unusual combination.

8. Lennon, *5:30 Saturday Morning* (Arista) — Lennon's debut disc rocks pretty hard for a 19-year-old girl. Hell, it rocks pretty hard period. I am so jealous.

9. The Cult, *Good and Evil* (Atlantic) — This is quite possibly one of the hardest rocking discs I've heard in a really long time. Forget The Strokes — The Cult could single-handedly save rock music.

10. Cursive, *Burst & Bloom* (Saddle Creek) — The only reason this CD isn't farther up on the list is the fact it's only five songs long and therefore too short. Otherwise, Cursive's emotional indie-rock sound is excellent. Another great release from a promising local band.

11. Radiohead, *Amnesiac* (Capitol) — This one's a little easier to digest than last year's *Kid A*. It's not as abrasive and has slightly more melody to it. I still miss the old Radiohead sound, though.

12. Fly From August, *The Distance Light Travels* (Autopilot) — Fly From August is a neat little indie rock band from St. Louis, Mo. I picked up a copy of the band's disc at a show at Rebel's over in Council Bluffs a couple months ago. The sound is atmospheric and melancholy, reminiscent of earlier Radiohead.

13. Death Cab for

Cutie, *The Photo Album* (Barsuk) — This album is full of delicate little pop songs. It's mellow and melodic, a great combination.

14. Tori Amos, *Strange Little Girls* (Atlantic) — You probably wouldn't think an album of strictly covers would be a wise idea, but Tori Amos actually pulled it off. Her rendition of Eminem's "97 Bonnie & Clyde" is



downright creepy.

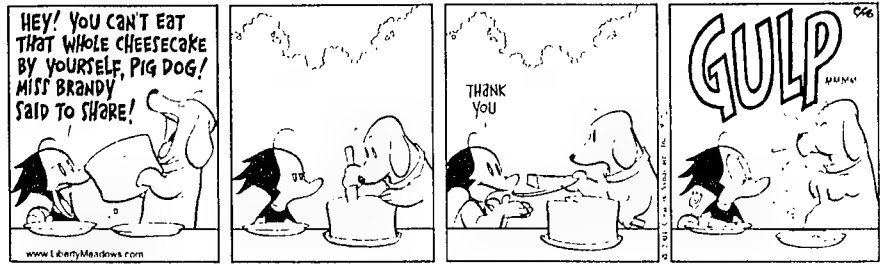
15. Weezer, *Weezer [green]* (Geffen) — The Green Album is not Weezer's best work, but it's good to see the band back in action.

16. Flickerstick, *Welcoming Home the Astronauts* (Epic) — Yes, I know, VH1 *Band on the Run* and all that. The music is still pretty darn good ... catchy melodies that aren't completely annoying are always a good thing.

17. Tantric, *Tantric* (Maverick) — Former members of Days of the New formed a new band and put out a record that rocks much harder. I'll bet someone is kicking himself now. ☹

Liberty Meadows

by Frank Cho



## from Doggie, page 4

consumer the cost of vet bills or other comforts to the animal.

This holiday, when little Jimmy wants a puppy, please consider alternatives. If one is set on buying a purebred, check out local shelters like the Humane Society. Thirty percent of the Humane

Society's population is purebred. Also, every purebred has a rescue organization that people can adopt from. There are decent breeders out there to buy from as well, but check out their background before purchasing; you may be buying from a puppy mill breeder. If one

does not see the need to have a purebred, why not help save a life and adopt an animal? Now that you can understand where that little doggie in the pet shop window came from, do you still want to buy him? ☹

## from Kwanzaa, page 4

one.

"I want to get the information out to those who might not know. It is somewhat of a welcoming event for students of color," Jackson said.

UNO's Kwanzaa celebration is planned to pay homage to a tradition that is growing in popularity and generating curiosity.

Jackson, with the help

of the Black Studies Department, Multicultural Affairs Office and African American Organization, has developed an itinerary that accommodates those who are new to the celebration of Kwanzaa, as well as those who partake in it regularly.

"Last year we had individuals attending for the first time," Jackson said, "and they didn't know

about Kwanzaa. When they left, they had a better understanding of the celebration."

The event, which is anticipated to last about an hour and a half, will strive to be an authentic cultural and educational experience, preserving the integrity and pride of Kwanzaa. ☹

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## Bears top UNO women in Colorado

Paul Freeland

### Women's Basketball

The Maverick women's basketball recovered from an early deficit at Northern Colorado to take the lead with under four minutes remaining, but cold shooting down the stretch would doom the Mavericks to a 73-62 defeat.

After trailing by as many as 14 points in the first half, UNO pulled to within five points to trail 35-30 at half-time. The Mavericks' run continued throughout the second half and they took the lead 56-55 on a three-point play from Jen Mitchell, but a quick 9-0 run by UNC in response put the Bears ahead to stay.

UNO had statistical dominance for much of the game, including out-

rebounding UNC 37-36 and forcing 26 Bear turnovers, but the Mavericks could only manage 30.8 percent shooting from the field, including 28.6 percent from three-point land. Mitchell led UNO (3-7, 0-1 NCC) with 17 points, three assists and three steals, while Tanya Hammes had 14 points and 10 rebounds. Raina Tasa had nine points and six rebounds and Sara Peterson had eight points, five rebounds and four steals for the Mavericks. Missy Borell finished with 27 points and 10 rebounds for the Bears (4-4), while Julie Bentson had 14 points.

Wayne State (4-3) awaits the Mavericks in their next contest. UNO's women will tip off against the Wildcats in Wayne Friday at 6 p.m. with the men's game to follow. **B**



Tom Herman slides a power play goal past Dan Ellis in Saturday's 3-1 loss.

photo by Chris Machan

## Nanooks claim first road sweep against Mavs

Brian Brashaw

### Hockey

It wasn't pretty and not at all beneficial for the home team for once.

The series between the Alaska-Fairbanks and the Nebraska-Omaha Mavericks hockey clubs have been dominated by the home team. The Nanooks went far to destroy that trend this weekend, sweeping the Mavs 4-2 and 3-1 at the Aud this weekend.

Never once did UNO get the lead. From the first period Friday night to the last buzzer Saturday night, the closest the Mavericks got was 0-0. The story unfolds like a book.

Friday night, UAF made the statement early that history would no longer repeat itself. In the first twenty minutes, Fairbanks took a 2-0 lead. Ryan

Campbell scored 11:46 into the game on the first of two UAF power play goals. Bobby Andrews added one more at the end of the period for the 2-0.

Scott Turner began a comeback attempt for the Mavericks in the second period, scoring 5:17 in to pull the Mavericks within one goal. The Mav surge was halted when Campbell scored again to stretch the lead back to two.

Jeff Hoggan again lifted UNO's spirits and chances by scoring 15:19 in, but UAF was there for the back-breaker very late in the second period. Blaine Bablitz knocked home a loose puck with just 0.3 seconds left on the clock in the second period. The Mavericks never recovered and fell 4-2.

The pressure continued Saturday night. In the first period Saturday, the Nanooks

outshot UNO 21-2. UAF had six straight minutes of power play time, including 2:24 of five-on-three play. The lone bright spot all weekend for UNO was killing that penalty. Yet, they were down 1-0 after the first.

"Anytime you have five power plays, and you outshoot them 21-2 and end the period with one goal, you can't feel good about that," UAF head coach Guy Gadowsky said. "In the back of your mind, you think it might come back to bite you." While the Mavericks picked up the tempo in the second, they couldn't prevent the Nanooks from taking a 2-0 lead. Tom Herman stuffed home a rebound that UNO goalie Dan Ellis had left for the power play score.

Period three saw the Mavericks again attempt a comeback. They gave

themselves several chances, but it wasn't until a power play opportunity presented itself that the Mavericks were able to get on the board. David Brisson rifled a shot from the blue line that deflected off the stick of Aaron Smith and in. Fairbanks answered right back, took a 3-1 lead and won the game.

"We fought like mad. I was pleased with the effort, but effort alone doesn't win games," UNO head coach Mike Kemp said.

After the game assistant captain Jeff Hoggan wasn't pleased with his team's weekend.

"You work hard on certain shifts, and then you don't work hard on other shifts, guys are looking for other guys to do the job, it's frustrating," Hoggan said. "Coach can't hold every guy's hand." **B**

## Maverick men open NCC play with road win

Paul Freeland

### Men's Basketball

The UNO men's basketball opened North Central Conference play on a positive note Saturday, holding off a late Northern Colorado charge to win 94-82.

UNC trailed 79-57 with four minutes left in the second half before starting their final surge, but converted free throws down the stretch kept the Mavericks in the lead.

Neither team established themselves in a first half that

saw seven ties and eight lead changes, but Adam Wetzel's lay-up with 25 seconds left capped the first-half scoring and put UNO up 38-36. The Mavericks reeled off eight straight points after the half-time break, though, to distance themselves from the Bears.

UNC drew the game to 84-75 with one minute left in the game, but Seth Nelson and Dan Morrow hit 8-8 free throws down the stretch to seal the win for UNO and first-year head coach Kevin McKenna.

Wetzel led UNO (7-2, 1-

0 NCC) with 16 points, eight rebounds and four blocked shots and Corey Hahn came off the bench to score 15 points. Morrow scored 14 points, while Alvin Mitchell had 11 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Sean Nolen led UNC (3-4, 0-1) with 18 points, while Howard Jackson had 11 points and 14 rebounds, almost half of the Bears' 29 total rebounds.

UNO's next game will be Friday versus Wayne State (3-4). The game tips off at 8 p.m. in Wayne. **B**

## Peanut gallery

David M. Johnson

• Props to UNO freshman defender *Bryce Lampman*, who was chosen to play for the Team USA junior world hockey team. Lampman has played in all 16 of UNO's games and has two assists.

• Props to UNO grappler *Chad Wallace*, who was named North Central Conference Wrestler of the Week. Wallace took the 197-pound crown at the Northern Iowa Open last weekend, wrestling against Division I opposition. The junior is 10-3 on the season. **B**

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# UNO swimmers take ninth, 10th dual wins

Paul Freeland

## Swimming

UNO's swimming and diving team closed out their pre-Christmas competition with a pair of dual wins, downing South Dakota 156-73 and Nebraska-Kearney 180-103.

Aja Wurth and Veronica Barna each won two events in the Mavericks' defeat of South Dakota, while UNO competitors won 11 of the meet's 13 events. Wurth took the 1-meter diving event with a score of 402.9 and the 3-meter dive with a 454.45, a school record. Barna clinched top spot and an NCAA provisional qualifying spot with a 1:58.43 effort in the 200 freestyle, while Ali Petersen and Martina Zamecnik took second and third, respectively, in the same event.

Barna led another 1-2-3 Maverick sweep in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:38.76, while Megan Kaminski and Sarah Clark finished second and third. Jamie Haferbier scored UNO's other provisional qualifying time with a 24.92 in the 50 freestyle.

Haferbier led the Mavericks against UNK in Kearney with a pair of wins as 11 different UNO swimmers claimed victories in the meet's 16 events. Haferbier won the 1650 freestyle with a time of 18:39.14 and the 200 individual medley in 2:16.16. Wurth claimed second in the 1-meter dive with a school-record score of 249.35 and won the 3-meter event with a 266.70, also a school record. Both scores are NCAA automatic qualifying marks.

UNO returns to action Jan. 20 against the Lopers for the second time in what will be the Mavericks' last dual meet of the season. **B**

# The Raf Report

Raf Czarnecki

What will 2001, the year in sports, be remembered for? Will it be remembered as the year of the Lakers, the Blue Devils or the Hurricanes? Will it be remembered for Eric Crouch bringing home the Heisman trophy or an overall chaotic year of college football?

2001 will be remembered as one of the greatest years in sports history. Baseball became America's pastime again. College athletics provided us with riveting moments, a la Nebraska making an appearance at the College World Series. The so-called "secondary" sports like golf, tennis and soccer stepped up with numerous exhilarating images. Huge boxing upsets occurred monthly. In the wonderful world of the WWF, the Rock showed why, next to me of course, he's the most electrifying man in sports entertainment. Let's now take a look at five of the more memorable events that helped shape a remarkable year.

**1. Major League World Series** — Where shall I begin? Arizona's Byung-Hyun Kim kneeling down on the pitcher's mound about to cry after another meltdown in Game Five is a good starting point. New York was heading back to the desert up three games to two. However, Randy Johnson wasn't about to see the Yankees party at his expense. The "Big Unit" pitched brilliantly as the Diamondbacks crushed the Yankees in Game Six to even the series. Game Seven was one for the ages. Yankee closer Mariano Rivera did the unthinkable and showed he had a pulse. A man with something sick like 30 straight successful saves in the post season, Rivera gave up two ninth-inning runs as the Diamondbacks celebrated their first ever World Series championship. Arizona pitchers Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson both pitched Game Seven and fittingly shared Most Valuable Player honors, in arguably the greatest World Series ever.

**2. NBA Playoffs** — The Lakers' 15-1 post-season record spoke for itself. In a dominant performance, Los Angeles swept by the Blazers, Kings and Spurs en route to getting back to the Finals for a second straight year. In the Finals, the controversial "never say die" Philadelphia 76ers and League MVP Allen Iverson shocked the world and took Game One in an overtime

classic. Unfortunately for Philadelphia, the Lakers were on a mission and Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant would not be denied. The Lakers prevailed in five games and celebrated the rebirth of "showtime."

**3. Lance conquers France** — Maybe the most superior accomplishment for an athlete is to win the Tour de France. Lance Armstrong not only dominated the Tour for the third straight year, but he did it only five years after learning he had testicular cancer. Racing his bike through the steepest mountains of France in record time, Lance proved again why he is the "Iron Man" and maybe the best athlete in the world.

**4. Stanley Cup Finals** — Twenty-two years into his hall of fame career, Ray Bourque finally took home the Cup. Why he took it back to Boston is another story, but the Avalanche's defensemen came to Colorado for one reason only: to win a championship. Game sevens in Stanley Cup Finals are big time, and this year's version was no exception. Colorado goalie Patrick Roy secured another Avalanche championship, giving up a lone goal in Colorado's 3-1 victory over the New Jersey Devils.

**5. Super Bowl XXXV** — When talking about images of the year, it would be hard to leave out Ray Lewis' Super Bowl pre-game dance. A mixture of James Brown, Michael Jackson and DMX, Lewis's shuffle set the tone on a night where the Ravens' defense brought a championship back home to Baltimore. A year after facing murder charges, Ray Lewis was named MVP of the Super Bowl, as the Ravens defeated the Giants 34-7 and showed why they possessed perhaps the greatest defense of all time.

The past 12 months in sports were amazing and in many cases, unforgettable. Unfortunately, the top story in the past year of sports will not be remembered for what and athlete or team accomplished, but how sports took time off and the people of the world mourned for a proud nation that fell victim to the acts of terror. The most valuable "players" during that endless week of horror were the police officers, fire fighters, health care providers and a few men on a plane who sacrificed their lives to ensure the safety of hundreds of Americans. These men and women were the real heroes of the year 2001, and their courage and effort will be remembered for an eternity. **B**

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# Live Wire: North Pole Observations

**Brian Brashaw**

Because we can't observe all things at all times due to our busy lives, I decided to go talk to the man that has nothing better to do 360 days out of the year than get fat and watch sports. Therefore, straight from the North Pole, and jolly old jelly-belly himself, I give you the world of sports, Santa Style. He makes one point for each of his reindeer.

**The Fresno Factor**

Fresno State started out like a runaway train, impressing everyone and rising high in the ranks before falling to a deathly demise. Yet, anyone who says Fresno State didn't have an impact on the national title has their eyes Scotch-taped shut. Had Fresno State not beaten Colorado in one of the first games of the season, it would be the Buffaloes, not the Huskers, playing in the Rose Bowl.

**How the Selig Grinch Stole Baseball**

While some could argue that the talent pool in Major League Baseball is as thin as Calista Flockhart, are contractions really necessary? How much of a factor does greed and power play? One thing old Bud should realize is that one

man's trash (The Twins, Marlins, or Expos) is another fans treasure. You of all people, Mr. Grinch, should know that.

**They're Getting a Lump of Coal**

While many made an argument for the Minnesota Vikings to contend for the Lombardi, from the North Pole, I observed something very different. Let-down time. Talk about a team that is sleeping; the Vikings are 5-7, and one or two more losses from missing the playoffs altogether. The good news for them is they can't finish last in their division. The 0-12 Detroit Lions have already secured that spot. Coal all around.

**They Left Me Cheese**

You ever seen that commercial with the cute little redhead saying she left me, Jolly old St. Nick cheese instead of cookies? Turns out she's a Green Bay Packers fan. Therefore, I've decided that they get good presents this year, and that 9-3 record should be just about thanks enough. You're welcome, boys.

**Canadian Hockey. My Home Away From Home**

After a long hard night of world-wide delivery service, I like to take Dec. 26 and watch some old-fashioned Canadian hockey. What luck that the Edmonton Oilers and the Calgary Flames will write another chapter in the Battle of Alberta that night. Santa is a happy jolly guy.

**Sports Trivia Shows Are On My List**

Many have come and gone in the last few years. The Ultimate Fan League is gone, Sports Geniuses is gone, and all that remains is the Bowl Game category on *Jeopardy* and *Two-Minute Drill*. All I want for Christmas is two more shows, so I can display my infinite knowledge of useless sports facts to Mrs. Claus, who frankly couldn't care less. If only I wasn't a figment of your imagination, I'd come down and prove it.

**Speaking of Bowl Games**

Every year I sit and watch these abominations of college football. When will it stop? What's next? the Whothehellcares.com Bowl, the We Suck vs. We Suck More Bowl, or the biggest joke for bowls in college football, the BCS. Wait, that does exist.

**Well thank you Santa,**

you jolly old soul. By the way, for Christmas, how about a job with ESPN? Is that too much to ask? ☺

# Gateway Sports New Years Resolution

proposed by Sports Editor Brian Brashaw

We resolve to continue to bring you consistent coverage of all your Mavericks sports teams.

We resolve to continue to bring you columns that point out the obvious, and the not so obvious, the serious and the not so serious side of the sports world.

We resolve to continue to give you the world of UNO intramurals.

Furthermore, we will be bringing you the inside stories happening on and off the field, right here at UNO such as:

- UNO hockey players that double as referees
- The family affair blazing the court and ice of UNO
- The swim's team's LSU transfer whose is re-writing the record books
- The teammate of above record breaker holding her own in the pool despite being a blind competitor
- The women's club hockey team slowly making a national name for themselves and...
- Intramural sports, the Interfraternity Council Sports Cup and beyond

We encourage students to tell us what they would like to hear from us. Club bowling, men's club soccer, synchronized swimmers, black belt club, we know you're out there. Let us know, and be heard. That is our resolution to you all. ☺

## from Brown, page 9

of the gift. He has had little to do with the university since his last donation seven years ago.

"I've only met him twice in my life," West said. "He hasn't been involved in running the center or charting its future. We've made all the programmatic decisions ourselves."

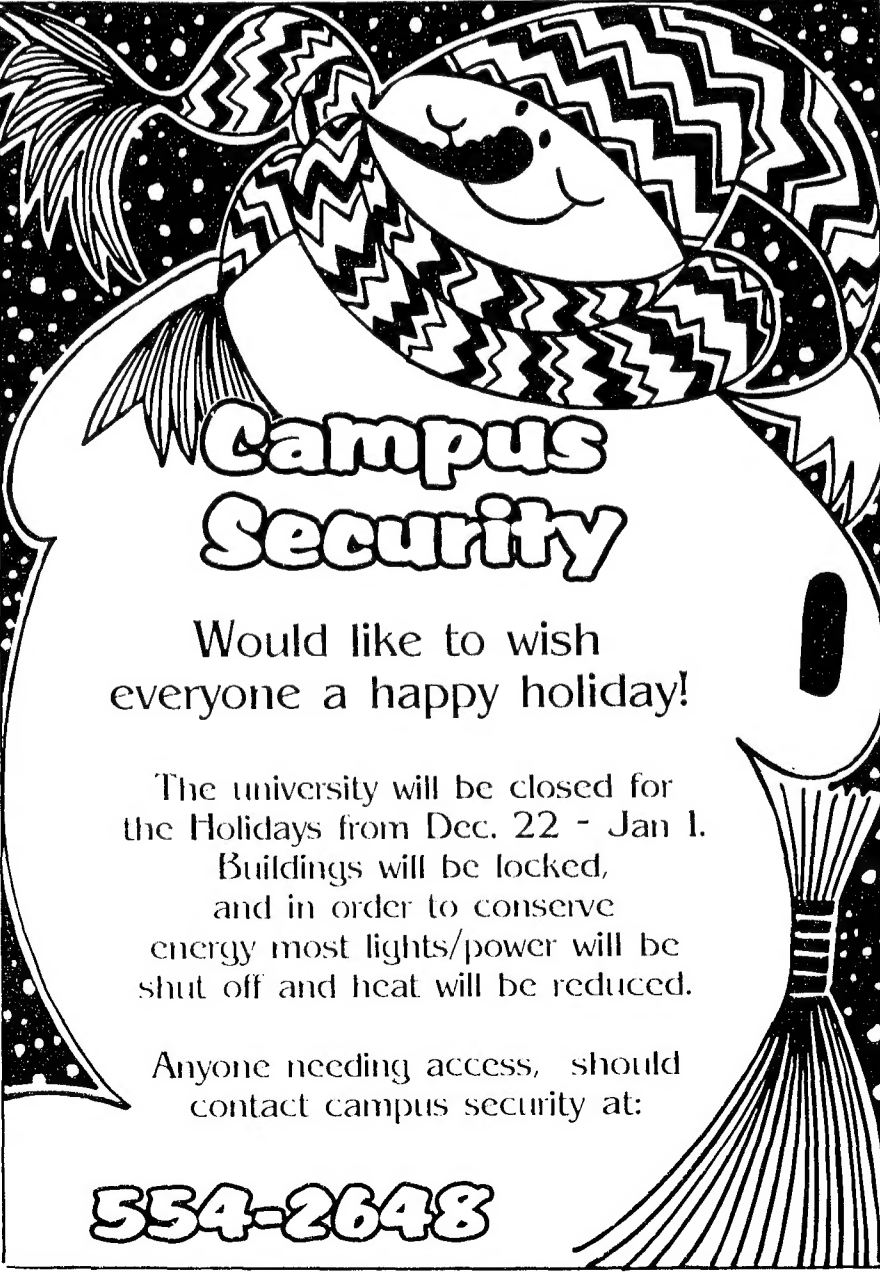
"There are lots of good things that have come out of his philanthropy," West said. "His money created many educational opportunities for students and faculty."

Brown established a public policy major in 1984. Since then, 500 students have graduated with public policy degrees, West said.

The Taubman Center maintains a visible profile in the community, largely because of the frequent polls it conducts to gauge public opinion about various political issues and candidates. It also sponsors a lecture program that has featured a number of prominent speakers.

As to changing the name of the Taubman center, West said the university's options are probably limited.

"Generally, universities don't take the names off buildings after people have given them money. I believe in this case, as part of the legal agreement when Taubman gave the money, he was promised the name would be on the center. You can't really change a legal agreement." ☺



## Campus Security

Would like to wish everyone a happy holiday!

The university will be closed for the Holidays from Dec. 22 - Jan 1. Buildings will be locked, and in order to conserve energy most lights/power will be shut off and heat will be reduced.

Anyone needing access, should contact campus security at:

# 554-2648

## Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Criticize forcefully
- 5 Actress Peggy
- 9 Small songbirds
- 14 Flightless bird
- 15 Baldwin or Guinness
- 16 Lofly nest
- 17 Golf club
- 18 Sleuth Wolfe
- 19 Florida port
- 20 Highly seasoned sausage
- 22 Meteorological prediction
- 24 Coarse file
- 26 Separate
- 27 Put among
- 31 Worldwide
- 35 Blockhead
- 36 Fall garden?
- 38 Maine college town
- 39 Historical period
- 40 Swaggering behavior
- 42 Actress Lupino
- 43 Financier John Jacob
- 45 Luxurious auto
- 46 Secondhand
- 47 Planter
- 49 Bawdy state
- 51 Calendar span
- 53 Slight
- 54 Uranus spotter
- 58 Cut choppers
- 62 Flooded
- 63 Type of dancer
- 65 Cranny's companion?
- 66 River embankment
- 67 Declare as true
- 68 Roosevelt coin
- 69 Low cards
- 70 Uris or Trotsky
- 71 Luge

DOWN

- 1 Schusses
- 2 Italian currency unit
- 3 Mil. truant
- 4 Mosque tower
- 5 Gas-mask part
- 6 Pub choice
- 7 Feudal peon
- 8 Newspaper exclusive
- 9 London bridge
- 10 Fission site
- 11 Columnist Bombeck
- 12 Small drinks
- 13 Act as an usher
- 21 Deface
- 23 Tease
- 25 Foot-operated lever
- 27 Concepts
- 28 Scandinavians
- 29 List of candidates
- 30 Demori
- 32 Western state capital
- 33 Chilean range
- 34 Encumbrances
- 37 Appoints
- 40 Old-time trousers
- 41 City center
- 44 Homeric epic
- 46 Straightens out
- 48 Stadium cheer
- 50 Expected
- 52 Fit for a king
- 54 Sentry's command
- 55 Wide-mouthed pitcher
- 56 Good review
- 57 What makes the world go 'round
- 59 Work hard
- 60 Word with stretch or run
- 61 Just got by
- 64 Sticky stuff

## Solutions

C	R	I	T	I	C	I	Z	E		N	O	B	L	E		S	A	E	R	I	
E	W	I	D		W	O	A	V		E	E	A	E	I							
K	O	N	O		O	G	O	G		H	S	V	M	V							
E	H	I	E		I	E	H	O	S	E											
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E	F	E	V		E	C		A	I		W	K	I								
S	N	T	U		M		S	S	V	C		W	V	I	S						

# Holiday horoscopes

predictions by Madame Zora

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**  
Hold your breath now child, it's about time you knew: Santa does not exist.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**  
To relieve some exam anxiety, try something you've never tried before — sleep.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**  
Having problems coming up with Christmas gifts? Send everyone a dollar bill. Everyone loves cash.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)**  
Go ice fishing with your grandpa.

**Aries (March 21 - Apr. 19)**  
Curtsy to the queen of holiday magic, Miss Martha Stewart. And don't forget your iridescent nutmeg.

**Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20)**  
If you see another Christmas special on T.V., you will self-combust into a million pieces.  
Bah humbug.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 21)**  
Who says you can't learn by osmosis? Tie three copies of your textbook to your arms and head and keep them there.

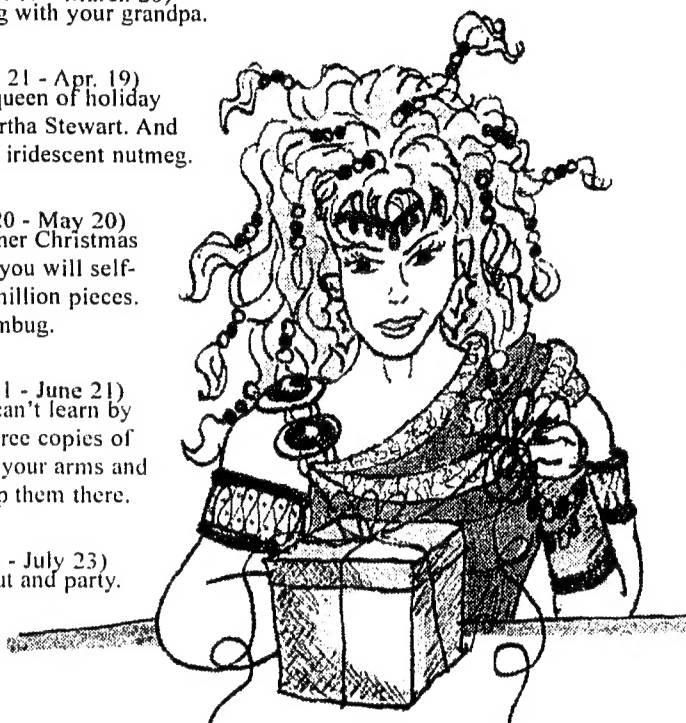
**Cancer (June 22 - July 23)**  
It's time to get out and party.  
Put on your Snoopy pants and dance.

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)**  
Fill your roommate's stocking with coal just to mess with him/her.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)**  
Remember the answer is D.

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)**  
Ho ho ho, where's the snow?

**Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)**  
The Internet, the place where you can shop ... in your underwear.



## RED MEAT

glad tightenings and seasonal greasings

from the secret files of  
Max Cannon

Cripes, Johnson...this is the sixth holiday sausage and cheese assortment package I've delivered to you since Thanksgiving.

I used to belong to one. In fact, I have half a beef brick and a smoked cheddar log left over from last year, and they still taste fine.

It's amazing. If they could figure out how to embalm bread and milk like that, I'd do all my grocery shopping through the mail.



Yep, I belong to several holiday "sampler clubs".



Ha! We're still working on last year's supply, too.



That's every man's dream, Johnson.

## RED MEAT

golden corn for the old and worn

from the secret files of  
Max Cannon

Sir, have you seen my milk delivery truck? It's not out in the lot with the other trucks.

But my truck is in tip-top condition.

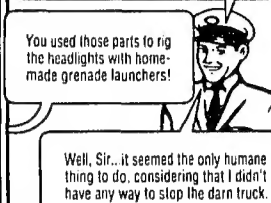
I was forced to "cannibalize" a few parts for some of the vehicle's other systems.



No, it's not. I sent your truck over to the shop for massive repair work.



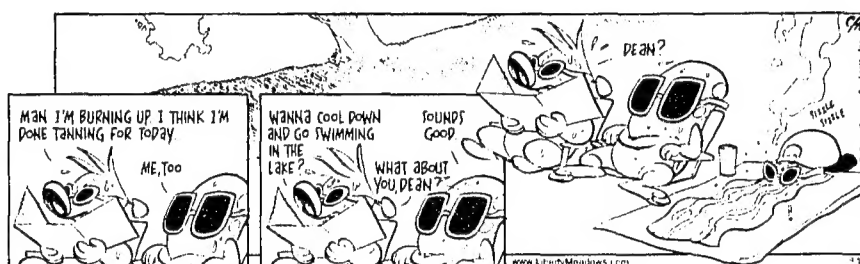
Tip-top condition?! The mechanic tells me you removed all the brakes and the master cylinder!



Well, Sir...it seemed the only humane thing to do, considering that I didn't have any way to stop the darn truck.

Liberty Meadows

by Frank Cho



# Have a safe vacation!

# Happy Holidays



from  
your friends at

# the Gateway

# MBSC Activities

The Milo Bail Student Center is a Unit of Student Affairs



## Tues., Dec. 11th

7:50 am Catholic Campus Ministry  
11:50 am Traffic Appeals  
12 noon Smoking Cessation  
12 noon Catholic Campus Ministry  
2 pm Staff Advisory Council  
4 pm Student Health Advisory Council  
4 pm Sigma Iota Rho  
5:50 pm Christ on Campus  
5:50 pm College of Business  
6 pm Alpha Xi Delta  
6 pm Faculty Women  
8 pm Lambda Theta Nu

## Wed., Dec. 12th

7 am Campus Crusade  
8 am Pi Kapp Alpha  
9 am Goodrich Student Celebration  
12 noon Assoc. Latin American Students

12 noon AA Meeting  
12 noon African American Organization  
12 noon Chapter Summary  
2 pm Faculty Senate  
5:50 pm Orientation

## Thurs., Dec. 13th

9 am "Consider This . . ."  
11 am Quest  
11:50 am Teaching Circles  
11:50 am College of Education Dean Staff  
12 noon International Studies  
1:50 pm Academic Advisors  
2 pm Review Sessions  
2:50 pm Service Learning Project Presentation  
2:50 pm Panhellenic  
3 pm The Edge/Focus  
5 pm Delta Sigma Pi  
7 pm Kwanzaa Celebration  
8 pm Campus Crusade

## Fri., Dec. 14th

9 am Goodrich Student Celebration  
10 am Safety Committee  
11:30 am Psychology Department Seminar  
11:30 am Arnold Air Society  
11:30 am College of Education Supervisors  
12 noon Commission of the Status of Women  
12 noon Interfraternity Council  
12:50 pm A.L.A.S.  
1 pm Academic Planning  
1:50 pm Basics of Desktop Publishing  
2 pm Judicial Board  
4:50 pm Campus Ministry International  
6 pm Christ on Campus  
7 pm Pi Kappa Alpha

## Sat., Dec. 15th

11 am African American Challenge  
11:30 am Native American Improv

## Sun., Dec. 16th

2 pm Zeta Tau Alpha  
2 pm Sigma Kappa  
3 pm Delta Sigma Theta

## Mon., Dec. 17th

No Events

## Tues., Dec. 18th

9 am Facilities Managers  
11:50 am Traffic Appeals  
12 noon Smoking Cessation  
2 pm SAP Meeting  
6 pm Alpha Xi Delta

## Wed., Dec. 19th

7 am Campus Crusade  
8 am Campus Security  
11:30 am Learning Center Luncheon  
11:30 am Sociology Anthropology Luncheon

12 noon Assoc. Latin American Students  
12 noon EPAC  
12 noon AA Meeting

## Thurs., Dec. 20th

8 am Cap & Gown  
9 am "Consider This . . ."  
11 am Quest  
12 noon Interfraternity Council  
6 pm Order of Omega  
6 pm Native American Studies Dinner  
7 pm Native American Studies

## Fri., Dec. 21st

8 am Cap & Gown  
11:50 am Commencement Luncheon  
12 noon Intensive Language Reception  
12:50 am A.L.A.S.  
2 pm Judicial Board

there are some things not worth reading  
for everything else there's the Gateway.



## \*\*\*Classified Ads\*\*\*

### NOTICES

Advertising will be rejected that discriminates based on age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

### LOST & FOUND

FOR ITEMS LOST AT UNO  
Contact Campus Security, EAB 100, 554-2648. Turned-in items can be claimed by a description and proper identification.

Advertising for items lost or found on the UNO campus will be published free in the Gateway for two weeks. Forms are available at the Office located in Milo Bail 1st Floor.

### HELP WANTED

Students Wanted  
Earn Money Working Part Time  
-create your own schedule around your classes  
www.income2000online.com/hafer

Part time grocery clerk needed for neighborhood store.

Tues. & Thurs. 9-3pm.  
Inquiries 5205 Leavenworth.  
551-6875 Ask for Mark

### We Need Outstanding Leaders

The 4-H Camps in Nebraska, at the Nebraska National Forest-Halsey, Schramm State Park-Gretna, and Harlan County Reservoir-Alma, are accepting applications for 2002 summer program staff. Lead tons of outdoor programs-canoeing, tubing, rappelling/climbing, swimming, and many more. Great Fun! Great Experience! Competitive Salary! Great summer position for all majors! Initial Applications Deadline: January 15, 2002. Applications received after deadline may be accepted until all positions are filled. For information call your local county extension office or (402)472-6717 or email: blorkovic1@unl.edu

### Make \$3000.00+ By Xmas

6 fun sales positions open at Westroads Mall. Avg. \$6.75-22/hr. 402-733-8277

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? Become a mentor! The Professional Partner Program is looking for volunteers willing to work with children who need a positive role model. Call Andria @ 444-6568 for more information.

### CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

What is Crusade? Real people experiencing real life in real relationships with a real God. Come join us at the Epicenter. Campus Crusade for Christ. Thursday 8:29 pm Nebraska Room MBSC.

### PERSONALS

Thank you St. Jude for 2 very special favors. K.

### TYPING SERVICES

APA Papers Typed. \$2.00 per page. Mary 551-8183

### FOR SALE

1992 Mazda MX3  
Runs Great  
\$1500 or best offer  
333-6091

Queen Mattress  
New, still in plastic. Retail \$839  
Asking \$195. Can deliver. 960-5671

Be recognized outside of Nebraska! Hats & Shirts. www.NebraskaOmaha.com

'93 Mustang, 125K, automatic, power windows & locks. Asking \$2500. Call 291-7687

### FOR RENT

Beautiful one bedroom units.  
Over 675 sq. ft.  
Heat/Gas/Water Paid.  
Hardwood Floors.  
Balconies/Parking/Laundry.  
\$400/mo. 3301 Dewey  
Call 551-2959

Looking for someone to finish lease of apt until July 2002. Bel-Air Apts. \$395 per month. Willing to deal! Call 614-1242

### HOUSING

APTS., HOUSES and sleeping rms. for rent, roommate lists - call UNO off-campus Housing Referral Service at 554-2383 or stop in the Admin. Office, Milo Bail Student Center.

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE  
9 Month Lease Available  
417, 421-423 North 40th Street (Between Cathedral and Joslyn Castle) Large 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments  
Carpet, Central Air, All appliances Off Street  
Parking, Security. Lease from \$375-\$495 per month  
Heat and Water Paid  
Belgrade Company Phone 393-6306 or Fax 393-4208

### TRAVEL

\*\*\*ACT NOW! Guarantee the best **SPRING BREAK PRICES!** South Padre, Cancun, Jamaica, Bahamas, Acapulco, Florida & Margarita. Reps Needed...Travel free, earn \$\$\$ **GROUP DISCOUNTS**  
FOR 6+ 800-838-8203/  
www.leisuretours.com

Wanted! Spring Breakers! Sun Coast Vacations wants to send you on Spring Break to Cancun, the Bahamas, Jamaica, or Mazatlan FOR FREE! To find out how, Call 1-888-777-4642 or e-mail sales@suncoastvacations.com

SPRING BREAK with Mazatlan Express. From \$399. (800)366-4786. http://www.mazexp.com

Spring Break Party! Indulge in FREE Travel, Drinks, Food, and Parties with the Best DJ's and celebrities in Cancun, Jamaica, Mazatlan, and the Bahamas. Go to StudentCity.com, call 1-800-293-1443 or email sales@studentcity.com to find out more.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

MoJo's Coffee House  
UNO End of Semester Special  
Extra Shot of Espresso FREE  
when you show your UNO ID.  
MoJo's Coffee House, 49th & Dodge

Having a difficult time?  
The Community Counseling Clinic in Kayser Hall 421 is free to students and low cost for everyone. Call 554-2727 for an appointment.

HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!!!